Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-100
Wednesday
26 May 1993

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FBIS-LAT-93-100 *26 May 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS. An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Regional Parliament Requests Guatemala 'Exclusion' From OAS *[Madrid EFE]* 1
Guatemalan Events Cause 'Deep Concern' Among C.A. Presidents *[ACAN]* 1
Rio Group Foreign Ministers End Meeting in Tokyo *[Brasilia Radio]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Alarcon Cites U.S. Human Rights Violations *[Havana Radio]* 2
Alarcon Addresses Regional Social Work Meeting *[Havana Radio]* 2
Antelo: Enemy Action 'Not Ruled Out' in Epidemic *[Havana Radio]* 2
Mexican Government Delivers First Official Donation *[Havana Radio]* 2
WHO/PAHO Delegation Chairman, Others Conclude Visit *[Havana Radio]* 3
Youth Unload 19-Ton Rice Shipment From China *[Havana TV]* 3

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Regional Human Rights Network Approves Resolutions *[CANA]* 3

Antigua and Barbuda

Trade Ministry Defends Free Zone Project *[CANA]* 3

Haiti

Reaction To Plan To Deploy International Force 4
Army Expresses Concern *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Bazin Proposes National Conference *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Government Rejects Proposal *[Bonaire Radio]* 5
ARH Calls for United Front *[LE NOUVELLISTE 24 May]* 5
UN/OAS, U.S. Envoys Depart After Meeting With Authorities *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5

MEXICO

Groups Reject Violence After Cardinal's Death 24 May *[Mexico City TV]* 6
* Rights Report Highlights Abuse of Peasants *[LA JORNADA 18 Mar]* 6
* Report Focuses on Violations of Indian Rights *[LA JORNADA 28 Mar]* 7
* San Luis Potosi Campaign Coverage Bias Cited *[LA JORNADA 17 Apr]* 10

CENTRAL AMERICA

Guatemala

Serrano Suspends Constitution 'Temporarily and Partially' *[Guatemala City Radio, TV]* 12
Situation Reportedly Calm After Speech *[Guatemala City Radio]* 14
Spokesman Says Government Restoring Credibility *[Guatemala Radio]* 15
Some Leaders Reportedly Under House Arrest *[ACAN]* 16
Ombudsman Escapes While Police Surround House *[Guatemala City Radio]* 16
Serrano Holds News Conference *[Guatemala City Radio, TV]* 16
URNG General Command Condemns Action *[Madrid EFE]* 22

Court Appointees To Be Named 26 May *[Guatemala City Radio]* 22
Press Secretary on Restrictions on Media *[Guatemala City Radio]* 22
Serrano Speaks to Mexican Media *[Guatemala City Radio]* 23
Menchu: Serrano Measures 'Setback' for Peace Talks *[Guatemala City Radio]* 24
PSD Announces Decision To Leave Government *[Guatemala City Radio]* 24
Serrano Makes 'Exclusive' Statement to Lima TV *[Lima TV]* 25
Constitutional Court Challenges Serrano *[ACAN]* 25
Serrano Issues Decree on Temporary Measures *[Guatemala City Radio, TV]* 25
Explains Temporary Measures *[Guatemala City Radio, TV]* 27
Serrano: Constitutional Order Not Disrupted *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 27

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Brazilian President Arrives for Two-Day Visit *[TELAM]* 29
Menem, Franco Sign Agreements *[Brasilia Radio]* 29
Menem Decorates President Franco *[Buenos Aires TV]* 29
Franco Lauds Cordial Relations *[Buenos Aires TV]* 30

Brazil

Economy Minister To Announce Measures By 14 Jun *[Brasilia Radio]* 31
Urges Reduced Costs, Speculation *[O GLOBO 23 May]* 32
Rules Out Dollarization of Economy *[Brasilia Radio]* 32
New Economy Ministry Executive Secretary Appointed *[Brasilia Radio]* 33
Nuclear Waste Disposal Problems Noted *[O GLOBO 23 May]* 33
First Dump To Cost $12 Million *[O GLOBO 24 May]* 33

Chile

Government Voices 'Deep Concern' Over Guatemalan Situation *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Aylwin Leaves for Scandinavian Countries, Russia *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Stockholm Demonstrators Harass Aylwin *[Santiago Radio]* 34
Aylwin 'Saddened' by Demonstration *[Santiago Radio]* 35
Swedish Daily Interviews Aylwin *[Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET 23 May]* 35
Correa Says Government Not To Co-Govern With Frei *[Santiago Radio]* 37
PS, PPD Say Frei Should Lead Entire Coalition *[Santiago Radio]* 37
Finance Minister Rules Out Possible Economic Adjustment *[EL MERCURIO 12 May]* 38

Ecuador

Government States Concern Over Guatemalan Situation *[Quito Radio]* 38
Government To Counter FUT Strike With State of Emergency *[Quito Radio]* 38

Paraguay

Wasmosy Comments on 'Negative Consequences' of Coups *[NOTICIAS 26 May]* 39
Opposition Discusses U.S. Recognition of Wasmosy Victory *[ABC COLOR 25 May]* 39
Editorial Suggests 'Effective' U.S. Support Beyond Rhetoric *[PATRIA 25 May]* 39
Germany, Nicaragua Acknowledge Wasmosy's Election *[ABC COLOR 25 May]* 40
Uruguay Supports Decision To Join GATT *[ULTIMA HORA 24 May]* 40
Foreign Minister, Uruguayan Counterpart Sign Declaration *[ULTIMA HORA 25 May]* 41

Peru

Fujimori Comments on Events in Guatemala *[Lima TV]* 41
Fujimori Discusses Pardons for Officers *[Lima TV]* 41
Congressman Joy Way Reportedly Attacked *[Lima TV]* 42
Bank Superintendent Orders Clae To Reopen *[Lima TV]* 42

Venezuela

Supreme Court Orders Initiating Perez Trial *[Caracas Radio]* 44
Government Issues Communique on Guatemala *[Caracas TV]* 44

Regional Parliament Requests Guatemala 'Exclusion' From OAS

PY2605025393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Santiago, 25 May (EFE)—The Latin American Parliament today requested the exclusion of Guatemala from the OAS as a consequence of the "self-coup" carried out today by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano.

The request was disclosed tonight in Santiago by Chilean Deputy Carlos Dupre of the Christian Democratic Party, who is the vice president of the Latin American Parliament. He read the communique released by this regional legislative organization.

In the communique the members of the parliament strongly denounced the self-coup in Guatemala, and demanded that the Serrano government lift the house arrest of Deputy Jose Lobo Duran, president of the Guatemalan Congress, and other leaders of the Guatemalan Congress.

The communique asks the governments of the continent and the world "to adopt effective measures to call on the people responsible for the coup to reestablish democracy; the free operation of political institutions; the full enforcement of the state of law; and unrestricted respect for human rights."

Deputy Eugenio Ortega, responsible for international affairs in the Chilean Christian Democratic Party, expressed concern over the serious incidents in Guatemala. He regretted the interruption of democratic life in that country, and asked the OAS to quickly send observers to that country.

Acting Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Rojas said today that Chile regrets this event, and that it hopes that democratic guarantees, the institutionality established by the OAS charter, and full respect for human rights will soon be reestablished.

Guatemalan Events Cause 'Deep Concern' Among C.A. Presidents

PA2605025093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0033 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 May (ACAN-EFE)—The presidents of Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama issued a joint declaration on 25 May in which they state their concern, but not their condemnation, of the "self-inflicted coup" staged by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano. The presidents express their hope that the situation may be overcome.

The complete text of the brief document states the following:

"The governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama state:

"1. Their deep concern over the serious incidents that have taken place in Guatemala and that have led to the breakup of the institutional order in this brother country on 25 May.

"2. Their commitment to the democratic system and the mechanisms it provides for the solutions of conflicts in society.

"3. Their hope that the current situation in Guatemala will be overcome in the shortest time possible for a quick return to the country's democratic institutions.

"4. Their confidence that said situation be resolved in a framework of full respect for the individual rights of Guatemalan citizens.

"They reiterate their respect for the right of the Guatemalan people to decide their future in freedom with all the guarantees provided by the democratic system and their decision to contribute as much as possible to the restoration of the normal situation in Guatemala if asked."

Rio Group Foreign Ministers End Meeting in Tokyo

PY1905014293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The foreign ministers of Brazil, Argentina, and Chile have told the Japanese Government that Latin America wants to have an active voice in making multilateral decisions on international trade.

Foreign Ministers Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Guido Di Tella, and Enrique Silva Cimma today ended a two-day meeting in Tokyo. During this period, they expressed the immediate needs of the Rio Group member countries, which will be reported on at the next summit of the G-7 presidents. The ministers emphasized the large economic potential of the Rio Group member countries.

The three Latin American foreign ministers also defended the need to end the monopoly over the permanent seats on the UN Security Council by the five countries that won World War II: Great Britain, the PRC, France, Russia, and the United States. They also supported the Japanese Government's request to become a permanent member of the council.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said the Latin American countries are being overlooked by the main participants in the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks. The GATT is the agreement that regulates international trade.

Minister Cardoso will be Rio Group president next year. The Rio Group was established in 1986 to support the democratization of Latin America and to implement the market economy in the continent. The Rio Group is comprised of Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Panama, in addition to Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, and Colombia.

Cuba

Alarcon Cites U.S. Human Rights Violations

FL2605022093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, characterized the U.S. blockade imposed against our country as the most flagrant violation of the human rights of every Cuban citizen.

As he made his presentation to the Sixth Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Regional Meeting on Social Work, inaugurated in Havana, Alarcon pointed out to the more than 150 participants of the meeting, how Washington violates these rights everyday. Alarcon noted that at the same time they can see how the Cuban people participate and develop new experiences; how they face the challenges and demonstrate that our society is based on brotherhood instead of the exploitation of one man for another man; and that Cuba is truly democratic and is made up of a collective effort.

Alarcon pointed out that even though our enemies hope for the contrary, deep down they do not believe in their own theory that history and socialism are over and that consequently, there is no possibility for Cuba to survive since it no longer has its old allies from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Alarcon stated that he is convinced it is not easy to eliminate our country, the government of which continues despite recent forecasts of its fall. Alarcon added that in spite of our enemies' attempts to show Cuba as isolated, they do not trust that the fruit will fall on its own. They therefore try to cut down the tree with their axe even if it shakes the entire forest.

Alarcon pointed out that when the world discusses human rights, it begins with the ideas put forth by those countries that have particularly violated human rights throughout the history of human rights, which are (?applied according to their needs) in other parts of the world, as well as in their own jurisdictions, such as in the case of the United States.

Alarcon Addresses Regional Social Work Meeting

FL2505220793 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1946 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cuba's people constitute its greatest wealth. Although without resources, our island does have a great asset, forged throughout a (?difficult) history. That asset is Cuba's population, which has acquired greater confidence through adversity, which will do even more for our future, and which will therefore also struggle for the future of the region's inhabitants.

At the opening meeting of the Sixth Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Regional Meeting on Social Work, Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's legislature, reiterated that our people will know how to reciprocate worldwide expressions of solidarity.

Addressing the more than 200 delegates meeting in this capital, Alarcon told them they will have the opportunity to see how a poor, weak country has in its hands the historic destiny of many men and women.

Talking about human rights, he said that there are attempts to censure Cuba yet Cuba is the only country in the area in which neoliberalism is not in force; its entire population has health care, education, and guarantees for security.

Antelo: Enemy Action 'Not Ruled Out' in Epidemic

FL2505152893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Jorge Antelo, the Cuban first health vice minister, has affirmed that over 200 million people presently lack access to health care in Latin America and the Caribbean. He added that it is necessary to raise the awareness of regional governments about their serious health problems. Antelo is heading the Cuban delegation to the Latin American and Caribbean Health Ministers Conference being held in Brazil. Antelo also stressed that while Latin America and Caribbean governments implement neoconservative policies and privatization of the health sector, in Cuba the government has so far invested $27 million to fight the epidemic neuropathy.

Antelo pointed out that Cuba is working with the WHO in fighting this illness which has been described by specialists as having multiple causes due to the presence of toxic agents, a virus which has already been isolated, and nutritional factors. Finally, Antelo stated to PRENSA LATINA in Brazilia that the hypothesis of an enemy action has not been ruled out in the appearance of the epidemic neuropathy in Cuba.

At the regional health conference in which Antelo is participating, the Brazilian delegation proposed a plan of action to prevent and control the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome [AIDS], in the region, where a fifth of the over 30 million people with AIDS live. The Brazilian project includes the exchange of experiences and human resources among Latin American and Caribbean nations to fight AIDS.

Mexican Government Delivers First Official Donation

FL2605133793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpts] The Mexican Government has made the first official donation to help the Cuban people confront the epidemic neuropathy, from which Cuba is suffering. Victor Manuel Rodriguez, coordinator of the Foreign Ministry Secretariat that handles Latin American consular matters and international cooperation, traveled to

Cuba at the express wish of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to deliver the donations. [passage omitted]

Mexican Ambassador to Cuba Beatriz Fareles Rangel was present at the arrival of the cargo of more than 18 tons of medical and hygiene supplies. [passage omitted] Cuba was represented by Health Vice Minister Ramon Diaz Vallina. [passage omitted] These actions, favorable to Cuba, are compatible with the Mexican Government's consistent foreign policy of support and solidarity with countries with national emergency situations.

WHO/PAHO Delegation Chairman, Others Conclude Visit

FL2505184393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] Professor Guillermo Llanos and two other experts from the WHO and Pan American Health Organization [PAHO], have returned to their countries with the promise to continue researching the epidemic neuropathy. Belkis Joglar Cairuz has the details.

[Begin recording] [Joglar] Professor Guillermo Llamos, who heads the WHO and PAHO groups, which were in Cuba carrying out research on the epidemic neuropathy, departed this morning from the Jose Marti International Airport. Dr. Juan Carlos Silva, regional adviser to the program on blindness, and Benjamin Caballero, chief of nutrition at John Hopkins University in the United States, also left this morning. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Youth Unload 19-Ton Rice Shipment From China

FL2605014893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The national bureau of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] led by UJC First Secretary Juan Contino put in a day of voluntary labor unloading a boatload of rice from China. At Breakwater No. 3 of the Sierra Maestra quay, working along with other youth work groups, they unloaded approximately 19 tons of rice from the vessel Seamaster. The rice was immediately taken to several railway sheds to be sent to Cienfuegos and Sancti Spiritus Provinces. The rice unloaded today by the young people from the UJC is part of the quota that is to be received in those provinces in June.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Regional Human Rights Network Approves Resolutions

FL2505235093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1809 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 25, CANA—Caribbean Rights—the human Rights watchdog—has urged Caribbean Community (Caricom) governments to urgently establish a task force to examine and make recommendations on the impact of International Monetary Fund/World Bank structural adjustment programmes on the living standard of the peoples of the Caribbean. This was one of ten resolutions approved at the eighth annual general meeting of the Barbados-based regional human rights network.

The recommendation came against the backdrop of concern expressed by unions, social workers, opposition politicians, and others about the impact of the programmes.

The May 20-22 general meeting in Belize City also decided to establish as soon as possible a "Caribbean Human Righs Legal Panel" to deal with the increasing problems being experienced by some citizens of the region in gaining access to legal aid. The legal panel will comprise some of the leading and very experienced members of the region's legal profession with a known commitment to human rights issues.

The meeting reaffirmed Caribbean Rights' commitment to continue working for the restoration of constitutional and democratic governement in the Republic of Haiti. It urged the international community and Caricom governments not to retreat from earlier positions that the de facto regime in Port-au-Prince be replaced as speedily as possible by a constitutional government under the now exiled president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The meeting also considered it appropriate in this United Nations proclaimed "Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples" to campaign with regional and international organisations to get the United Nations to introduce a new 'international convention for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples."

New programme emphases on the rights of the child and of women, prison reforms, and the need to monitor and report on the negative implications for the Caribbean of existing provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) were also aproved by Caribbean Rights.

The meeting resolved that Caribbean Rights would continue its campaign of opposition to the death penalty and also to persuade the authorities to abolish corporal punishment wherever "such a degrading practice" still exists in the region. Reelected unopposed as chairman and executive secretary respectively, were Mr. Caleb Morales of Puerto Rico and Victor Cuffy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Antigua and Barbuda

Trade Ministry Defends Free Zone Project

FL2505174993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1606 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, May 25, CANA—The Antigua and Barbuda Trade Ministry has blamed a lack

of understanding on the part of members of the Senate for their rejection of a bill providing for the establishment of a free zone here. The Senate sent the bill back to the House of Representatives last week after members expressed concerns about the level of tax concessions and incentives proposed for investors in the free zone, the benefits to be derived by the country, and the possibility of unfair competition for local businesses, among other issues.

In a statement, the Trade Ministry said the proposed free zone was designed in such a way to offer a unique opportunity for Antiguans to enjoy high wages and benefits, a decent working environment, and the opportunity for acquiring high level skills.

"The ministry sought to attract in the free zone high-tech and high value added industries....(that) are not as sensitive to wage differentials as other labour intensive manufacturing concerns," the statement said.

According to the Trade Ministry, investors in the proposed free zone had planned to establish a number of projects including "a state-of-the-art 180-bed privately operated hospital to cater to U.S. Residents, insurance and banking companies, medical instrumentation and diagnostic industries, bio-tech. companies, and informatic industries."

"The products or services..... would gain easy access to international markets targeted because of duty free access enjoyed (by Antigua to the European Community) under Lome IV (Accord) and (to the United States under the) CBI (the Caribbean Basin Initiative)," the statement added.

Boosting foreign exchange earnings through exports is a principal reason countries establish free zones. It's a development strategy some Caribbean countries have adopted including Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

The Trade Ministry defended the level of concessions being made available to free zone investors.

"This legislation is not radical. All it does is to structure the granting of concessions to worthy and viable industrial enterprises," the ministry said.

For example, a private investor "who will be investing U.S.50-80 million dollars in this large scale venture must be granted the appropriate concessions for an extended period of time so that he/she may be able to receive reasonable return on his investment in an adequate period of time."

"It is precisely for that reason that lavish concessions were granted to the developer," the statement said.

The Trade Ministry said the free zone remained "a viable concept" and announced it planned "to conduct on-going sessions to educate the public."

Haiti

Reaction To Plan To Deploy International Force

Army Expresses Concern

FL2505160193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Concerning the ongoing negotiations, the general command reiterates its willingness to cooperate to find a solution to the crisis in keeping with the Constitution. The Haitian Army High Command expressed its keen concerns about the plan to deploy an international armed police force of 500 to 600 men and an international military mission in Haiti. The high command points out in a communique issued by the general staff's secretariat that the Army command is deeply concerned about this proposal, passed on in the guise of a memorandum by Dante Caputo, UN/OAS international mediator, and Lawrence Pezzullo, the U.S. secretary of state's representative. Those concerns include the composition of those forces, their mission, the reasons for their presence, their method of functioning on national territory, and the absence of any regular and constitutional procedure for their settlement. The Haitian Army High Command communique concludes by saying that the general command reiterates to the Haitian nation its willingness to cooperate to find a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis, while respecting the Constitution, and its constant determination to encourage a constructive dialogue among all Haitians.

Bazin Proposes National Conference

FL2505195693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The Bazin government has reacted to the sixth mission to Haiti of mediator Caputo, who ran into the Haitian authorities' opposition to the sending of a police force to Haiti. The Bazin government relaunches the idea of a national conference as a way out of the crisis. Let us listen to details with Rothschild Francois, Jr.

[Begin recording] The consensus government led by Marc Bazin has proposed holding a national conference in the beginning of June to resolve the crisis. In a communique issued at the conclusion of the sixth mission of international mediator Dante Caputo, the government explains that this conference could be held for a period of one week, either in Haiti or abroad. The conference could be presided over by a nonspecified Haitian personage and would bring together all the groups representing parliament and Father Aristide.

The government and Armed Forces would be present, but as observers. It should also be pointed out that the government has proposed that the international community play a role in this process, in that it would endorse the conference and ensure its secretariat [as heard]. We note that in this communique the government has reported on its discussions with Dante Caputo, Lawrence Pezzullo, and Charles Redman. The government says it reaffirms its insistence, so

often expressed, that the search for a peaceful, viable, and appropriate solution must go through the prior elaboration, by all concerned Haitian parties, of an overall settlement plan that simultaneously takes into account the constitutional, political, commercial, economic, and institutional aspects of the crisis.

Moreover, on 13 April, the government announced a series of proposals that could become a basis for discussion and negotiation of this overall plan. It said in this communique that it is only within the scope of such an overall settlement plan, and as part and parcel of this plan, that the Haitian parties would establish on their own initiative a strictly technical mission to assist in the professionalization of the Haitian Armed Forces, the creation of a specialized police force, the modernization of justice, and, generally, the consolidation of the institutions.

While it notes with regret that an agreement has not yet been reached on the two major issues mentioned, the consensus government believes that some progress has been achieved in the understanding of the various positions and in a willingness to seek a lasting solution to the Haitian crisis.

This was a communique published this afternoon by the consensus government regarding the negotiations with Caputo and Pezzullo. In the same communique, the government has proposed holding a national conference at the beginning of June to resolve the crisis. [end recording]

Government Rejects Proposal

FL2605114993 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tougher sanctions against Haiti are being considered by the United States after the failure of diplomatic efforts recently. The military regime in Port-au-Prince turned down the latest proposals designed to resolve the country's political crisis, which is now 20 months old. Less than two weeks ago, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was voicing optimism for a critical settlement. But reports from Haiti now say the government has rejected the proposal to establish an international police force there and work for the eventual return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. One reason could be that the Haitian Constitution states specifically that no other armed corps can exist in Haitian territory. Among the moves being considered are blocking oil shipments to Haiti and freezing the overseas assets of prominent Haitians who support the military regime until the impasse is resolved.

ARH Calls for United Front

FL2505212293 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French 24 May 93 No 34,544 p 12

[From "The Buzz in the News" column]

[Text] The information service for the Alliance for Haiti Renaissance [ARH] in a press release dated 12 May raises "the most energetic protest against the sheer folly of the international world toward the Haitian people, doomed to genocide; and invites all Haitians, young and old, brothers and sisters momentarily divided, to unite to form a compact front against the criminal project of foreigners who have not stopped working to rend the social fabric."

UN/OAS, U.S. Envoys Depart After Meeting With Authorities

FL2505152593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Dante Caputo, UN/OAS mediator in the Haitian crisis; and Lawrence Pezzullo, representative of the U.S. secretary of state for Haiti, met with Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, chief of the Haitian Army, and the Haitian High Command. The meeting, which lasted three hours, took place at Army headquarters in the center of the capital. The two diplomats refused to make any statements as they were leaving Army headquarters. Ambassador Charles Redman, U.S. special charge d'affaires in Haiti, accompanied Pezzullo, while Nicole Handgrass of France and Frances Vandrel of Spain accompanied Caputo.

Caputo and Pezzullo, who arrived in Port-au-Prince on 22 May, have already met with Prime Minister Marc Bazin on several occasions. This is Caputo's sixth mission since he was appointed on 11 December 1992 by the UN secretary general. Diplomatic sources told AFP that the purpose of the visit by the two diplomats, which ended on 24 May, was to talk with Haitian civilian and military officials about the organization of a future training mission of the Haitian police by an international police force and a reconstruction military mission in Haiti.

In April, Clinton administration officials announced a U.S. military plan to rebuild Haiti while explaining that this operation would be carried out only with the support of the Haitian authorities.

For its part, the unofficial radio of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Radio 16 December, broadcasting from Miami, Florida, and received in Haiti, announced on 24 May... [pauses] on 23 May in an editorial that the president priest did not sign a request regarding this international police force all the more so since this plan is made for the good of the people. [sentence as heard] The radio warned that no one can say that he has seen a document signed by President Aristide authorizing this mission.

Pezzullo and Caputo left on 24 May. Dante Caputo, UN/OAS mediator, and Lawrence Pezzullo, representative of the U.S. secretary of state for Haiti left Port-au-Prince respectively for New York and Washington. Caputo refused to make any statements about this sixth mission, contenting himself with saying that he would make a report to the secretaries general of the OAS and the United Nations about the results of his actions and that the international authorities would afterwards make decisions having been made aware of the details regarding this mission. He added that the OAS and the United Nations would separately provide explanations on the Haitian situation as early as 25 May.

Groups Reject Violence After Cardinal's Death 24 May

PA2605032893 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The news media, political parties, and the most diverse social sectors of the country reacted by unanimously blasting the violence generated by drug traffickers and complaining about the lack of public security in the wake of the murder of Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas on 24 May in Guadalajara, Jalisco State. Forensic Medicine Service Director Mario Rivas stated the cardinal was hit by direct shots.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Jose Antonio Fernandez] The evidence found by ballistic experts of the Jalisco Attorney General's Office reveal that Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas and Pedro Perez Hernandez, his driver, were killed by direct hits fired by a group of heavily armed individuals. This report would rule out the report that the prelate was caught in the crossfire during a clash between rival groups. This conclusion is based on a report by the Jalisco Attorney General's Office that was not officially revealed.

Regarding the medical tests, based on a description and classification of the wounds, because a permit was granted to forgo autopsies on the bodies of the cardinal and his driver, Dr. Rivas said:

[Rivas] We conducted all tests on the cardinal and the driver. Cardinal Posadas' body contained 14 bullets and that of his driver 11 bullets.

[Unidentified reporter] Was he shot in the head?

[Rivas] He was not shot in the head. But these were very direct hits. [end recording]

[Fernandez] The so-called (Wolket) test performed on the vehicle was positive, showing the bullets were fired from less than one meter away. It was also shown that cars parked near the cardinal's were barely scratched, although people took refuge inside. If the bullets had not been fired at close range, they would have had to follow an elliptical trajectory to hit the prelate and his driver, since the victim's car was surrounded by other parked cars. The seven victims were fully identified on the afternoon of 25 May. The last two victims claimed by their relatives were Ramon Flores Flores and Jose Rosario Beltran Medina. The two came from Concentraciones Ejido, Sinaloa. They had left their homes months ago to work in Guadajalara. [end recording]

* Rights Report Highlights Abuse of Peasants

93CA0110A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 18 Mar 93 p 3

[Report by Matilde Perez U.]

[Text] Acts of abuse against poor peasants doubled last year in comparison with 1991, rising from 1,071 to 2,254, indicated the CDHMAP [Miguel Agustin Pro Human Rights Center]. It specified that the majority of the cases originated in land-related conflicts.

In its annual human rights report the CDHMAP noted that there are no indications that this trend has changed since it was first monitored in 1988. "Repression remains selective in nature, perpetrated by persons whom the government has not been able to bring into compliance."

It added that the number of human rights violations remained high last year despite the growth of the human rights protection movement, the rise in the constitutional stature of the CNDH [National Commission for Human Rights], and international pressures on Mexico concerning human rights.

The organization's status report says that 4,467 cases were reported, with the largest number of abuses directed against peasants; these were followed by violations in urban areas, 1,450; political organizations, 547; and against workers, 216.

In the chapter on violations of peasants' rights, the center states: "The negligence and excessive bureaucracy dominating government institutions (in the agrarian sector) have led rural workers to turn to forms of struggle and pressure like land seizures, demonstrations, and marches. Repression of these activities is simply the culmination of a long series of violations of the human rights of the people who work the land."

After stating that the report was based upon all the violations which, according to its analysis, were the most recurrent and significant last year, the CDHMAP indicated that the largest number of human rights violations against peasants consisted of assault and battery (1,139); followed by illegal arrests (442); threats (401); murder (150); and torture (122).

The report says that reforms of Article 27 of the Constitution have laid the groundwork for an accelerated land concentration process that will benefit only agricultural and livestock operations capable of competing in international markets.

The study indicates that in Veracruz, Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Guerrero there were violent evictions, cases of repression aimed at organizations, and murders of leaders, as well as instances of abuses perpetrated by the police and military.

Of the total number of threats reported by the CDHMAP, 84 percent were directed against peasants, who were victims of 79 percent of the murders, 67 percent of the arrests, and 86 percent of the cases of presumed torture.

* Report Focuses on Violations of Indian Rights

93CA0111A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 28, 29, 30 Mar 93

[Report in three parts by Rosa Rojas]

[28 Mar pp 1, 10]

[Text] **Part I**

For Mexico's native peoples 1992 was a harsh year. Socioeconomic and cultural inequality worsened. Malnutrition and the decline in their standard of living also worsened. Repression, the system's response to greater collective actions of resistance and struggle by native communities, increased. According to the report released by the CDHPRO [Miguel Agustin Pro Human Rights Center], *Human Rights of the Indian Peoples*, in 1992 there were 3,387 violations, 63 percent of them in Chiapas.

According to this document, from December 1988 through December 1992 there were 8,036 instances of abuse, with 42 percent of the total reported in 1992 alone. The increase is considerable: 1,458 in 1989; 709 in 1990; 2,332 in 1991.

The 500th anniversary of the arrival of the Spanish in the Americas provided the scenario for a number of statements, mobilizations, meetings, and gatherings by a variety of ethnic groups. The Indian peoples engaged in major struggles to defend their rights.

Nonetheless, the report states, "the fourth year of an administration that is working to globalize the economy, open borders, and modernize the production apparatus deepened the native peoples' conviction that the neoliberal system is incapable of offering them real possibilities of development, given the voracity and harshness with which capital has penetrated the territories, woodlands, and forests they inhabit."

The year 1992 "was a year that demonstrated the negative consequences inherent in the reform of Article 27 of the Constitution: pressures to sell parcels of land, loss of these parcels for unpaid loans (fraudulent debts, of course), deception by officials, lack of respect for communal property, new latifundios, and local cacique rule. Now, with the program to reduce the backlog of land title disputes, native people still seeking land are being further marginalized and deprived of any chance of finding a solution, as they represent such very "unmodern" problems as the restitution of communal property or the allocation of latifundios; their production is the least profitable, highest risk, and in highly disaster-prone areas," the report adds. "It is true that Article 4 of the Constitution was amended to provide recognition of the multiethnic and pluricultural composition of our country. But to date the enacting regulations for this article have not yet been issued, which not only leaves a legal vacuum in this regard (in not facing up to the political and legal consequences of this change), but it still does not provide access to a legal system offering true and real protection for our native peoples."

This document, the second part of the CDHPRO's *1992 Annual Report on Human Rights*, contains a statement by the New Peoples Human Rights Center concerning the increase in abuses against native peoples: "This political use of violence attempts to undermine resistance and determination on the part of native communities to struggle and defend themselves, in addition to containing their autonomous and independent organization, and with this, the formation of an indigenous movement that expresses and represents native peoples as active subjects taking responsibility for their own development."

Statistics, an Inexorable Reality

The report states that the increase in abuse, lack of punishment for the perpetrators of these actions, and the "rigged use of the law" takes a variety of aspects: assault and battery, serious injuries, arbitrary arrests, imprisonments, violations of constitutional provisions and time periods, kidnappings, disappearances, tortures, rape of women, evictions, burning of houses, looting, destruction of harvests, repressed demonstrations, marches, and meetings, and attacks on villages. "Illegality and violence go hand-in-hand," it says.

In terms of the frequency of these violations, based on their type, from January to December 1992 there were 70 murders, of a cumulative total from December 1988 to December 1992 of 279 murders. The first figure listed for each type of crime is for 1992; the second gives the total for the 1988-92 period:

Disappearances: 132; 588. Illegal arrests: 1,064; 2,641. Holding a person in isolation: 160; 515. Kidnappings: 20; 263. Injuries: 297; 1,453. Torture: 63; 293. Harassment: 1,581; 2,004. The totals are 3,387 and 8,036. Illegal arrests represent 40 percent and acts of harassment 79 percent of the cumulative total for each.

Of the states where these actions occur most frequently, in 1992, 2,160 of the 3,387 violations were reported in Chiapas (63.8 percent); followed by Oaxaca, with 240 (7.1 percent); Baja California, 216 (6.4 percent); Veracruz, 196 (five percent); Sinaloa, 192 (5.7 percent); Guerrero, 127 (3.7 percent); Tlaxcala, 84 (2.5 percent); and Yucatan, with 40 (1.2 percent). In the rest of Mexico's states, there were a total of 132 violations (3.8 percent).

Based on trends from 1988 through 1992, most violations are committed in Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Veracruz, where the majority of the indigenous population is concentrated. There are regions, says the report, where the disputes about land, forest, mineral, and lake resources, etc., that take place between native-peasant communities and groups in power are highly conflict-ridden.

In terms of violations by ethnic group affected, in 1992 the Tzeltal Indians of Chiapas were the most frequent victims: 1,014 violations reported, 30 percent of the total

for that year. In second place were the Chol-Mame-Tzeltal Indians, also of Chiapas, who were the victims of 404 violations, 12 percent of the total. Then follow the Mixtec Indians, with 398; the Eni, 310; the Tzotzil Indians, 279; the May Indians, 192; the Tzeltal-Tzotzil group with 185; the Mame-Tzeltal-Tzotzil group, 113; and the Zoques, with 107. The report emphasizes that the Chiapas ethnic groups do conduct joint actions, but still are the victims of acts of abuse.

In 1992 the aggressors were: the State Security Police, responsible for 515 acts of abuse; and the caciques, responsible for 510. The two represent 20 percent of the total. Then follow hired gunmen, the Federal Judicial Police, the State Judicial Police, and the Army, with 13, 12, 13, and 5.5 percent, respectively.

[29 Mar pp 56, 14]

[Text] **Part II**

"Violations of the human rights of native peoples are being directed against their economic conditions, their individual rights, their constitutional rights, and in an ongoing way, against their customs, habits, traditions, and their own forms of organization," states the CDHPRO.

"The new aspect of this situation," it adds, "lies not in this fact itself, but in the substantial lack of punishment for the parties responsible for these violations, as well as the officials responsible for the administration of justice in native regions."

In its document, *Human Rights of the Indian Peoples*, in analyzing the type of perpetrators who in 1992 committed 3,387 acts of abuse against native peoples, the CDHPRO notes that they are, on one hand, the very groups responsible for protecting the social and constitutional order, either State Security, Judicial Police, or Army; and secondly, private groups of gunmen acting under the leadership or with the direct participation of caciques who, acting outside the legal system, take it upon themselves to recruit and pay clandestine gangs.

"The fact that this type of group is acting at the instruction and responsibility of higher political-administrative authorities shows that the system of dispensing justice is not doing its job, and is actually working against the very system it was designed to uphold."

For violations by type of victim, it was found that the majority of the victims of these human rights violations, in 2,058 cases, were members of the indigenous community, that is, persons who are organized in accordance with their traditions or independently.

In second place were persons active in a regional or local indigenous organization: 477 cases. Violence, the report indicates, is directed against them with greater precision, and these people and their leaders are the majority of the murder victims. The reason is clear: "The perpetrators are trying to contain or eliminate people who may serve as catalysts for native peoples' organizations and collective actions of resistance and self-defense."

The report added that the position of native peoples in prison is extremely problematic. In many cases "there are fabricated reasons why they are in prison, and then an entire series of violations of their human rights begins. It starts with the jail sentence itself, and it never ends, as the court may issue a sentence for a normal amount of time, but it is extended indefinitely."

In the frequency of abuses classified according to type of victim, in 305 cases these victims were prisoners; in 217 cases, ejido members; in 166 cases, leaders; and in 106, community members.

Concerning areas of conflict, the report states that the space in dispute or in conflict may differ in nature: it may involve land, crops, woods, credit, etc. These are areas in which the opposing interests of specific parties intersect, and, therefore, the points at which confrontations arise in terms of resistance and struggle.

In 1992, the report notes, the majority of violations concerned the administration of justice, with 32 percent; in second place were violations involving economic issues, 24 percent; third, political violations, 20 percent; fourth, agrarian issues, 12 percent; fifth and sixth were religion and services, both 4 percent; and finally, education, 1 percent.

"These data show, along with the scenarios in which the indigenous resistance occurs, the demands being fought about at the present time. One of them, vital at this time, is the administration and delivery of justice. As we have already said, it is not enough to have modern laws on the books if there are institutions and interest groups that make justice a *modus vivendi* of their own."

It adds: "Economic issues are also of great importance, since they involve attempts to obtain credit to woods, minerals, waters, etc. Political issues are involved in the defense of traditional forms of government and their independent participation in the municipal administration or in the party or political organization that most interests them."

"Agrarian issues arise in the struggle for the enforcement of presidential resolutions, for land allocation, for obtaining agrarian and basic services, etc. In terms of religion, these issues involve respect for native peoples' traditional practices and customs, as well as their right to join any church. Service issues are related to efforts to obtain water and sewage services, communications, electricity, and other utilities."

The CDHPRO notes that in 1992 agrarian issues were in fourth place, while in the cumulative report covering December 1988 through December 1992, they occupied first place. "This means that the struggle over land is vital for the subsistence of indigenous communities. It is possible that many cases related to the administration of

justice originally arose from agrarian problems. Conflicts over economic issues probably were based also on agrarian problems, involving issues like marketing or credits for agricultural or livestock production."

According to type of authority involved in violations of the human rights of native peoples, the report's statistics show the federal authorities in first place, responsible for 45 percent: 2,595 cases. In second place are state officials, responsible for 43 percent, or 2,440 cases. In last place were municipal officials, who were responsible for 10 percent of these violations, 615 cases. In a single case the three forms of authority may converge. From December 1988 to December 1992 the state authorities were most often responsible for these abuses, noted the report.

[30 Mar pp 48, 12]

[Text] **Part III (last part)**

Abuses, violations of human rights, and discrimination determine the responses and the meaning of the marches, demonstrations, public protests, hunger strikes, and other forms of struggle used by native peoples. They are and will continue to be "the extremely poor, the dispossessed of the neoliberal system," states the CDHPRO.

In its report on *Human Rights of the Indian Peoples*, it indicates that the neoliberal policies of the Salinas administration have created greater discrimination, marginalization, and poverty.

In its conclusion on the modernization of rural areas, the document, the second part of the *1992 Annual Report on Human Rights*, states: "Even though the government's official statistics on the economic situation and policy presented in the fourth government report tell us that we are living in an idyllic country, led by a federal administration that is more than perfect, economic growth in Mexico during the Salinas administration, in addition to being excluding and concentrating has been insufficient to eradicate the poverty and extreme poverty that are crushing almost half the nation's population."

"The decapitalization of production units is severe not only in more backward regions, but even in areas which in former times had high levels of capital investment. The agricultural crisis is rooted in the relation of agriculture to the rest of the economic system, through the unequal connection of this activity in an industry dominated by strong monopolies."

"The neoliberal system has no central interest in seeking an adequate solution to the ethnic question in our country; at most, it tries to completely subordinate this issue to the neoliberal order, or a new type of integration which, through the offer of new production proposals, may be promoted by these communities."

"The priority attention given to some indigenous regions is based upon tourism interests, now in their ecotourism mode, such as *Mundo Mayo* [Mayan World], or the extraction of various raw materials. This investment movement remains tangential in terms of any change in the poverty levels of these regions."

In addition to its portrait of abuses of the most important individual rights during 1992, the CDHPRO emphasizes that nutrition is one of the human rights "most infringed upon by the rigid application of the government's economic and agrarian policy."

The present nutritional status of indigenous peoples is determined by the limited nature of subsistence agriculture, the reduction of the real incomes of these population groups, and in general, by the reduced rate of growth of national production of basic foods, the increase in agricultural and food exports, their diversion toward relatively elitist food consumption, and a poor internal distribution system, notes the report.

Native people continue to represent an extreme case of marginalization with a calorie and protein deficit of 28 and 26 percent, respectively, and a malnutrition level that rose from 66 to 71 percent from 1979 to 1989. The food supply is inadequate, the distribution system is poor, and the problem of middlemen prevails. In general, the living conditions of between 12 and 15 million native peoples are deplorable, promoting the malnutrition-disease-worsening which is part of the malnutrition cycle.

The center's report emphasizes that the most appropriate solution for the problems of undernutrition and malnutrition of rural people is the productive reactivation of the community, "a goal that has until now not even been mentioned in regional plans to amass marketable goods. Hunger in Mexico is beginning to be a cause for the population to organize," the report observes.

Concerning the agrarian status of indigenous peoples, the report notes that the Agrarian Reform Department is now in the process of dissolution. Its chief concern at this time is bringing an end to the agrarian land title backlog, not dealing with distribution problems.

Chiapas and Oaxaca, states with large native populations, are the ones whose files contain the largest number of unresolved cases. The government's tendency is, on one hand, to give legal security to possible future investors, from whom it has received minuscule responses, and, on the other, to settle quickly these title dispute backlogs by issuing negative rulings in all cases, lumping together dispossessions, simulated parcels in dispute, takeovers of ejido and communal lands, and possessions that have been established for years and are still not recognized.

On the peasant movement and its responses, the report notes:

"Hunger is our leader; it organized us," was the answer given by the Tzeltal and Chole Indians whose peaceful demonstration in Palenque was put down, when queried by prosecutors during the rigged preliminary statements.

This demonstration was organized after their violent eviction on the last day of 1991. And so began 1992, with criminal case A1/992.

Mexico's native peoples celebrated 12 October 1992 as an important date. It brought about calls for justice, for an end to arbitrary actions, joint regional mobilizations, and it brought together the voices and protests of many ethnic groups. The new feature in the indigenous movement's struggle in this period is that it is not a single or isolated struggle.

The worsening of poverty and of coercive responses has brought in other sectors that are also bearing the weight of "modernization" and those whose independent organizational process is being blocked by the state apparatus. Still needed is a thoughtful study of the great solidarity that has been generated around the indigenous marches on the part of civil society.

Like the peasant movement, it faces the enormous challenge of consolidating and amassing sufficient strength to block the incessant measures that the Salinas administration is taking to impose its development model. Indigenous peoples and their organizations have a significant contribution to make to our nation at this time.

The International Year of the Indian Peoples, 1993, will be one more year of struggle to open the doors of official totalitarianism. In their long march to defend their rights, the native peoples will continue to be the pilgrims of justice and hope.

* San Luis Potosi Campaign Coverage Bias Cited

93CA0115A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 7

[Commentary by Sergio Aguayo Quezada, president of the Mexican Human Rights Academy: "San Luis Potosi: Skirmishes for Democracy"]

[Text] Tomorrow the people of San Luis Potosi will elect their fourth governor in 18 months. Without denying the importance of this event, a recent dispute between a nongovernmental organization and journalists in this state shows the difficulties we must overcome if we are to have reliable elections and a democracy.

The CPDH [San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center] studied the way in which a local television channel (Channel 13) and the four newspapers with statewide circulation (EL HERALDO, MOMENTO, EL SOL DE SAN LUIS, and PULSO) covered the special elections for governor and state congressmen. Their aim was to measure the amount of coverage and the treatment of the candidates.

For the print media the period analyzed was one month (March); 2,763 analysis units were reviewed (news reports, columns, editorials, etc.). The results show that the four newspapers gave better coverage and treatment to the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] than to the other parties. By percent, 48.7 percent of the units were devoted to the PRI, about 18 percent to the PAN [National Action Party], and 14 percent to the NPP [Nava Political Party]. In terms of content, 74.5 percent were favorable to the PRI, 10 percent to the PAN, and 8.5 percent to the NPP.

Analysis of San Luis Potosi's Channel 13 (a private channel) shows that the PRI candidate, Horacio Sanchez, received 58 percent of the coverage devoted to gubernatorial candidates; the PAN candidate, Jorge Lozano, 27 percent; and the NPP candidate, Concepcion Calvillo, 15 percent. The way they were treated is interesting: 100 percent of the references to the PAN candidate were positive, as were 88 percent of those to the PRI candidate, while four percent of the references to the NPP candidate were favorable.

With these figures the nongovernmental human rights organization concluded that the communications media in San Luis Potosi were quite generous to the PRI, to the detriment of its opponents, particularly those from the NPP. This situation, they concluded, violates the right of the people of San Luis Potosi to be well informed and the right of the parties to equal access to the media. Both factors have a negative impact on the conditions that make an election democratic. To be sure that this information would be published, representatives of the CPDH purchased space.

The reaction of the San Luis Potosi newspapers was rapid and strong, confirming that few institutions are as sensitive to criticism as the media. They all cited their impartiality and professionalism, and to discredit the study, they accused the CPDH of NPP connections and a lack of seriousness (in EL SOL the group was described as "just a group of dilettantes").

The charge that a human rights ONG [NGO-nongovernmental organization] is an instrument of the opposition has little effect because it is constantly used to discredit groups, as it is common for this type of organization to have sympathizers with opposition parties. It is similar to the charge that some groups make against government human rights commissions for receiving government money. In both cases, such groups have to be measured by their work, and using this criterion the CPDH has a reputation as a serious and independent organization among the NGO community.

I have reviewed their work with attention and it seemed to me that they were very careful not to draw conclusions that were not based on the facts. The validity of their conclusions is demonstrated because one point that the newspapers implicitly accepted was the conclusion about their preference for the PRI. In general, the response of the San Luis Potosi press was just negative criticism, with one exception that I want to comment on.

In the newspaper PULSO, Omar Javier Gallegos made several quite interesting comments about aspects that were not covered by the study. His point that they should

have included in the study the fact that the PRI candidate had more campaign appearances seems quite interesting to me. Another point he mentions is that the press office of the PRI was more efficient in sending out press releases. EL HERALDO made the same criticism, saying that "the press staffs of each candidate do not operate with the same effectiveness, as the poor activity of most of them does not even allow for press releases."

This is a disturbing and well-founded statement, for it brings to light the custom of our press of writing news based on press releases. In some cases what the press release writes it pays to have published as news (these are the famous "gacetillas"). In other cases, the reporter faithfully reproduces the press release, just altering the order. On some occasions he does this because of overwork, in others because he is paid to do it, and we must not forget the miserable salaries that reporters are paid.

This and other issues should be introduced in future content analyses. It seems appropriate to me to state that in the study done in San Luis Potosi they successfully tested methodology that has been developed over the past two years by the Mexican Human Rights Academy in coordination with Convergence of Civic Organizations for Democracy. The general purpose is to establish technical ground rules to increase observations on the way in which the media cover elections, and some other issues as well.

Viewed from this perspective, the significant factor in the skirmish between the CPDH and the local press is that it revealed defects that some of the Mexican media have. No matter what the origin of these defects, the partiality they produce places obstacles in the way of the transition to democracy. The problem is an old one; it has been recognized, and will be discussed in debates on the election reform being considered in Congress.

But even if our legislators pass impeccable regulations, it will take some work to implement reforms because of the peculiar situation of the Mexican media. In Western tradition the media are representatives of the community, and one of their functions is to keep an eye on the powerful. In Mexico the situation is different, because a good part of the media are hand-in-glove with those in power.

Although the media may not like this, one solution will be for society to establish mechanisms and programs to supervise the media. It seems essential to do this if we want to move ahead toward the creation of a democratic culture.

Guatemala

Serrano Suspends Constitution 'Temporarily and Partially'

PA2505150093 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1312 GMT 25 May 93

["Address to the Nation" by President Jorge Serrano in Guatemala City on 25 May—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text]...to your homes. I want to tell you in all sincerity....[pauses] I will inform you of some measures I have decided to take. These are perhaps the strongest measures I have taken in my life. I must confess to you that making these decisions has not been easy, but many times I have asked myself: Why am I in the Presidency? To continue tolerating the violation of the law? To see how the state of law is violated and how Guatemalans feel free to do whatever they want in the country? I believe not. I do not see democracy that way. It is true democracy is freedom, but not libertinism. Democracy is a system in which we can live in harmony, but not abuse each other. What we saw last week, those grotesque scenes the entire country and the world were able to see [two-second break in reception] of what should be [two-second break in reception] persons who claim to be leaders, but cover their faces to appear on television. That is not democracy, it is not dignified, or appropriate.

The truth is that in our country the law has not been given the place it deserves. I must tell you frankly that based on the arguments I will give you later, the country needs to be shaken in its legal structures. We must [words indistinct] the problems [words indistinct] and other state institutions. At the same time, we must reform our state in order to have a modern state, a state that will respond to the needs of the great majorities, a state that will respond to the needs of the poorest sectors.

I must tell you I am deeply saddened by the demagoguery in which some who claim to defend the poorest sectors shield themselves to defend their own interests, which are far from being the interests of the poor, which should be defended in a democracy. Many times I feel frustrated to see the nearsightedness of many Guatemalans who only want to see what is directly in front of them in order to earn political popularity, losing the vital farsightedness that is required in the administration of our countries.

We must realize that many people are waiting to receive services, and people who have those services should have a spirit of solidarity with each other. Only in that way will we be able to build a modern, but above all, a just Guatemala.

I want to tell you I have made decisions I want to share with you now. These are very important decisions for our country. Making these decisions has been extremely difficult for me.

I am confident that these decisions will benefit the welfare of our fatherland and will purge all forms of corruption, of which both you and I are completely tired, from the state. These decisions also are made to build a modern state that will lay the foundation so that the next leaders of this country can really implement their work and we can all work toward the reconstruction of a noble and dignified fatherland.

I have decided to suspend the Constitution temporarily and partially, as permitted by Article 21 of [words indistinct] of the very Constitution. It needs urgent changes. This article allows the Constitution to remain valid, but at the same time gives us the opportunity to make some changes, which we consider extremely urgent.

In order not to confuse anyone in the country, I would like to make two things clear. First, I do not intend to remain in power one day beyond the term for which I was freely and legitimately elected. In other words, God willing, I will be leaving the office of president with a rebuilt, dignified, and modern country on 14 January 1996, as established by the mandate of the people. Second, I want to say that at this moment I ask the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to call for a National Constituent Assembly in 60 days that will permit us to revise the Constitution and have a Constitution that will resolve the problems of the existing Constitution.

I have also decided, assuming a historical responsibility before the nation, to restrict guarantees and dissolve the Congress of the Republic, as well as to change the Supreme Court of Justice and the Constitutional Court, and change the attorneys generals of the country. This is the control system of the country, namely Congress, the Court, and the attorneys general.

Unfortunately, there are factors that have led me to make such an important and big decision.

For the past two and a half years, I have been subjected to political blackmail by some members of Congress. This blackmail makes it impossible to rule for the good of the country. Gentlemen, I believe some congressmen are acting irresponsibly and are not performing the duties for which they were elected.

I wish to tell you that very few times have I been able to discuss, at length, our national goals. On many occasions, however, we have had to negotiate and the national goals have been seriously affected during these negotiations. This cannot continue because we are building a legal scaffold that has little or nothing to do with what we want for the future of our country.

The irresponsibility with which the preliminary hearings have been handled by the Congress is shocking. How many [words indistinct] have suggested preliminary hearings for many reasons and the Congress has not followed up on them. They have followed up on the preliminary hearings against a former attorney general, which bothered some people. They followed up on the

preliminary hearings against an attorney general in order to maintain control over him. That is not correct. This is no longer independence of branches—it is a maneuver of savages and this is unacceptable and inconsistent with the independence of branches.

The people of Guatemala have repeatedly expressed their displeasure for the demagoguery that exists within the Congress. In most cases, personal interests are put ahead of party interests and ahead of the country's interests. Unfortunately, this is not why the Congress was elected. The Guatemalan people elected representatives to represent them and to do all that is necessary to pass laws that will allow the country to prosper and develop. Far from that, we have had to endure a Congress that is nothing more than a [word indistinct] and it is very difficult to make progress while carrying that weight.

On the other hand, we must admit that from the day of its appointment, the Supreme Court of Justice has been corrupt [viciada]. We tried to work with the Supreme Court, but unfortunately, its application of selective justice makes it impossible for us to strengthen the state of law.

The Supreme Court has not done all it can to resolve big cases. We have made great efforts to place criminals before justice, but they are quickly set free by the judges and even by the court itself.

We want to clarify to the Guatemalan people that during 1991, the Guatemalan Government assigned 48 million [currency not specified] for Supreme Court operations. During 1992, the court was given 57 million [currency not specified], an amount the Constitution specifies, plus an additional 50 million [currency not specified] in accordance with a commitment made by the Congress. In other words, during 1992, the Supreme Court of Justice received 107 million [currency not specified]—twice the amount it received in 1991 and possibly three times what it received in 1990.

During 1993, we are giving the court 101 million [currency not specified]. In other words, what it received in 1992, which the Constitution specifies, plus the extraordinary contribution.

I received a request by the Supreme Court of Justice president for an additional 154 million [currency not specified], which means that in 1993, the Supreme Court had planned to receive five times what it received in 1991 and one and a half times what it received in 1992.

I want to tell you that these amounts of money cannot be pulled from the air; these are amounts that are difficult to come by. I told the Supreme Court president at the time that I was willing to give support to judicial branch reforms. I asked him to send me the proposals, but he forgot. You can see, therefore, that there are no bad intentions, to the contrary, we want the country's justice system to come out ahead. We know we need to spend money in the Supreme Court, but I am not willing to turn over money the way it was asked for, without any indication as to its use. I repeat, these amounts of money are significant—for 1993, it would be five times the amount paid in 1991.

I believe that these measures are necessary to renew the state because drug trafficking in Guatemala has grown impressively. Basically the amount of seized drugs during 1992 and 1993 are unprecedented, which vastly surpasses the country's budget. What worries me the most is that every day drug consumption is increasing in Guatemala. According to the statistics, in 1992 drug consumption increased over 150 percent.

I must tell you that for every kg of cocaine that was consumed in 1992, 2.5 kg were consumed in 1993. This is a serious matter for Guatemala. Drastic action must be taken. Therefore, on this day, through a specific presidential agreement, drug trafficking has been declared a crime against humanity in our country.

I believe that human rights constitute a fundamental system that protects human beings from abuses of power, but I also believe that this issue should be kept far from partisan politics nationally and internationally. Therefore, I have come before the international community today to congratulate the United Nations for having established a mechanism for the verification of human rights in Guatemala. It is necessary to verify the efforts the government has been making in the area of human rights. We need guidance to overcome our problems in this area. The state also requires advice and guidance so that it can wage a struggle against crime within a framework of respect for human rights. We do not want human rights to be used by criminals as an advantage over honest Guatemalan people. We need the advice of the United Nations to develop mechanisms that will make it possible to strengthen those institutions, which are there precisely to ensure respect for human rights; not only the human rights ombudsmanship but all the institutions that strengthen the state of legality and guarantee each Guatemalan's right to exercise freely his rights.

I must reaffirm my desire for peace. Guatemalans are a peaceful people. I must reaffirm my conviction to get to the bottom of the problems that may lie at the root of our country's internal struggle. I recognize and once again confirm before the entire world that negotiation is a valid means of obtaining peace.

We regret [words indistinct] intransigence displayed by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity at a recent meeting where it presented nonnegotiable documents. We must understand that when one participates in a negotiation is because one wants to close the gap between positions. When one of the parties, however, maintains a nonnegotiable position, it completely breaks all possibilities for a dialogue to achieve a rapprochement.

We regret such positions. We, however, reaffirm before the whole world our firm determination to achieve peace through civilized measures. We think it is timely to

reiterate our invitation to the United Nations to establish a mechanism to verify human rights, not solely and exclusively to verify general human rights aspects, but also to verify specifically government behavior in all aspects of the reincorporation of Guatemalans, who have participated in the struggle, into the country's normal life.

The state wants Guatemalans who are up in arms and involved in illegal activities to lay down their rifles and join the country's normal life. We will guarantee their lives and offer them economic help to rejoin society and work in a dignified manner. We will also ask the United Nations to verify our behavior. We are not afraid, we have nothing to hide. Our intention is clear. We want Guatemalans to be united completely.

We also want to start a strong campaign against corruption in the country. A campaign allowing us to—and this is our justification for these measures—make changes in so many areas that affect Guatemalans. We will first define purchasing systems in the main state offices [words indistinct] and for this purpose we will invite a commission made up of representatives of various productive sectors of the country to establish procedures to achieve this goal.

We will also eliminate corruption in the customs office by placing private and state auditors in official warehouses to fight widespread corruption and contraband that are affecting, not only the country's production, but also affecting Guatemalan treasury revenues.

On 24 May, we also started to organize a commission that will dedicate itself exclusively to reforming the Treasury Police and National Police to ensure these two organizations will protect our country's honest civilians the best way they can.

The important changes in immigration and the Education Ministry Personnel Department, as well as in other branches of centralized and decentralized entities, are also a challenge against corruption. The administrations of these agencies have participated in mismanagement practices indiscriminately.

In addition to the aforesaid change, we are also ready to begin immediately social development programs, such as the Social Investment Fund, which will resolve the most pressing problems of villages and townships. We will continue to meet the needs of peasants through the National Land Fund, the National Fund for Housing [word indistinct], and the Children's Fund.

I want to announce to the people of Guatemala that the entire Congress budget for this year, which we will not spend, will be totally allocated to the Health Ministry for remodeling hospitals in precarious conditions.

As you can see, these measures are important and drastic, but they are necessary. Guatemala needs an opportunity to [word indistinct] its juridical structure and resolve something all Guatemalans have longed for. I want to repeat to the people of Guatemala that I will not remain in office one day beyond my term.

I was legally and popularly elected by the people of Guatemala for a five-year term and I will fulfill my term. I would never forgive myself if, being president of the Republic and seeing all that I have seen, I were to leave office frustrated because I did not do what I had to do. That is why I am historically assuming the responsibility for all this that I am telling my people. I ask God to help me and guide me.

I want to tell you all that I hope that this Constituent Assembly, which on 25 May I asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to assemble for a term of no more than 60 days, must be a Constituent Assembly that must fill the expectations of our country. The Constituent Assembly must not again carry out constitutional reforms based on a lengthy Constitution, full of legalisms, but we must focus on guaranteeing essential points for the country.

At this time, I invite political, business, and labor leaders to an open dialogue. I also invite all other sectors of the country, namely professionals, workers, and peasants, to define in an open dialogue the reforms we desire.

We must implement them quickly, and through those constitutional reforms we must try to prevent the corruption of the past and the vices that make the state nonfunctional, because it permits corruption and demagoguery, which together we can reduce through joint efforts.

I do not intend to make those reforms myself. I believe this constitutional government must take into consideration the opinion of all Guatemalans in order to make the most urgent reforms. The only thing that moves me to adopt this momentous and crucial decision is guaranteeing our country will not be taken over by drug trafficking, that our country will not be a haven for the mafias, and ensuring our country will have a future without corruption, venality, or demagoguery.

I must tell the country that I am willing to do everything within my power to eradicate all of the harm and damage that has been done to the country. I must say that I do this with my head held high because although I have been a victim of slander and insults, I also know that there is a God who sees everything and judges everything.

I know there is a God who will judge everything, and who sees everything. He knows what is in my heart, and he also knows what my decisions are, where I am heading, what I am seeking, and above all, he knows my responsibility toward Him and my people. God bless you all, and thank you very much.

Situation Reportedly Calm After Speech

PA2505161993 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1516 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] In a message broadcast on a radio and television network, President Jorge Serrano Elias announced the

dissolution of the Congress of the Republic, the Judicial Branch, and the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights.

Movements of police and Army contingents were observed from 0400 [1000 GMT]. The Legislative Palace, the Supreme Court Building, and the residence of [Human Rights Ombudsman] Ramiro De Leon Carpio in Zone 7 were surrounded.

President Jorge Serrano Elias has called a news conference at 1000 [1600 GMT] on 25 May to report on the current political situation in light of changes announced by the president during the radio and television network.

No public disorders have been reported thus far. The situation is calm, and the country and the population in general have reacted with surprise, but not negatively, based on comments heard in buses, restaurants, and streets in the capital, where normal activities continue.

Spokesman Says Government Restoring Credibility

PA2505185293 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1530 GMT 25 May 93

[News Conference by Antulio Castillo Barajas, secretary general of the Presidency, with unidentified reporters at the National Palace in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] [Castillo] At this time we will publish the (?decree).

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castillo] No. Basically we are suspending certain guarantees for (?functional) reasons. To outline the entire (?decree) would take a long time and I must first [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Regarding the administration of justice [words indistinct]

[Castillo] I have just now received the decree and I am going to disclose it to you. Within a short time you will be apprised of it. A news conference will also be held by [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [words indistinct] decree laws?

[Castillo] [words indistinct] presidential decree.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] the Army?

[Castillo] Definitely.

[Reporter] Which public officials [words indistinct]

[Castillo] Those are issues that will be dealt with later. However, in general terms, the president has the support of the entire cabinet and all the staff [previous word in English] secretaries. In other words, further changes may be made along the way and many measures will have to be adopted. However, credibility must be restored so the Guatemalan people will see that we want to do things properly and we will do so. All the things the Guatemalan people have rejected are a consequence of this situation.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] approved by the international community?

[Castillo] That is a question you can ask of the foreign minister, who is also going to hold a news conference.

[Reporter] The Christian Democrats said [?the foreign minister] had received a death threat a while ago at Congress.

[Castillo] I am not aware of that.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Castillo] No, no, no. Public order will be maintained.

[Reporter] What is the situation of [Human Rights Ombudsman] Ramiro De Leon Carpio?

[Castillo] I believe you can discuss that with the government minister; he will give you assurances on that issue. The fact is that Congress has been dissolved and he is Congress' representative; therefore, Congress is [word indistinct].

[Reporter] When you say that certain articles of the Constitution have been (?suspended) does this mean that other articles remain in force?

[Castillo] Generally speaking the Constitution is in force.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castillo] I would have to take a look at that; I have not even looked at it.

[Reporter] Did the government adopt those measures because it was manipulated by the Army and the wealthy?

[Castillo] No. That is not true. We want the Guatemalan people to receive benefits. In fact, the Congress' budget will be used on health projects as the president has announced.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castillo] Each person has his own opinion. The president made this decision and we will do [words indistinct]

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castillo] It is known that in this case, a there is no Congress there is no [word indistinct].

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castillo] That is no problem. We are not trying to harm anyone.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castillo] I am not aware of that. [words indistinct] I was called and I am not aware of many things.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Castillo] I believe [words indistinct]

Some Leaders Reportedly Under House Arrest

PA2505165693 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 May (ACAN-EFE)—Some of Guatemala's main political leaders were placed under house arrest even before President Jorge Serrano announced to citizens on 25 May that he was taking over all powers of state.

Political sources, who asked to remain unidentified, told ACAN-EFE that Congress President Jose Lobo, a member of the Guatemala Christian Democracy [DCG]; and Supreme Court President Juan Jose Rodil Peralta, of the Union of the National Center [UCN], are under house arrest.

The sources indicated that Alfonso Cabrera, DCG secretary general, is also in the same situation. His house is being guarded by security forces.

The DCG and the UCN are the main opposition parties in Guatemala. Up to two months ago, they had supported the Serrano administration in Congress. They had the largest number of seats in Congress, which was dissolved by the president on 25 May.

The DCG had 27 seats in Congress, while the UCN had 17 of the 38 [number as received] it won in the 1990 general elections following the resignation of 16 legislators due to disagreements with UCN leader Jorge Carpio Nicolle.

Even though none of the top leaders of those organizations have expressed their opinion on the measures adopted by Serrano, UCN member Rene Barrios told ACAN-EFE that the executive commissions are currently analyzing the situation.

The headquarters of the Congress and Supreme Court of Justice, the two organizations dissolved by the president, are being heavily guarded.

Two hours before Jorge Serrano announced to the people that he was assuming all the powers of state, Guatemalan radio stations were in network following a presidential order.

The presidency has announced that in the next few hours a news conference will be held. There is a tense calm in the city; all is normal, and a heavy police presence can be observed on roads that lead to Guatemala City.

Ombudsman Escapes While Police Surround House

PA2505173493 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1654 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon has reported to us moments ago he is still in Guatemala. De Leon reported that at about 0600 [1200 GMT] National Police members surrounded his residence with the intention of entering, and as a result, he was forced to jump over a wall to escape.

Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon said he will not leave the country and is currently at a private residence in Guatemala City. De Leon added that the embassies of several countries have offered to help him leave the country, but he will not accept such offers because despite the suspension of constitutional guarantees, he has the mandate of looking after Guatemalans.

De Leon added that he fears what could happen in the next few hours with the life and safety of political leaders.

Serrano Holds News Conference

PA2505212493 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1705 GMT 25 May

[News conference by President Jorge Serrano moderated by Arturo Alvarez, Presidency's public relations secretary, with local and foreign reporters in Guatemala City—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Serrano]...my government. First of all, I wish to make absolutely clear that the political Constitution of the Republic was not abolished. Article 21 of the political Constitution—in its final and temporary provisions states: Due to overriding factors the Constitution may be partially or totally suspended [20-second break in reception] that will be handed to the media in due time.

I have no intention to remain [words indistinct] for even a day past my constitutional mandate. This means [words indistinct] to hand over the presidency of the Republic to the person who is elected by popular vote and in a dignified manner in the elections that should conclude with the transfer of power on 14 January 1996.

The measures we adopted are solely and exclusively [six-second break in reception] to purge, to a certain extent, the mafias that have taken root in state control systems and to promote the modernization and harmonization of the juridical structure. For this purpose I will visit the TSE [Supreme Electoral Tribunal] on 25 May. I will hold talks with various groups in this country, with politicians, and union, labor, business, and peasant leaders to carry out a constitutional reform that will truly turn the constitutional instrument into one that meets the needs of our people and will shut the doors on mafias and on corruption, which have hurt us so much.

The measures that we adopted are difficult ones. I told Guatemalans on the morning of 25 May that I regret having had to do this. I would have never wished to do it, I would have never wanted to do it. There are times, however, when one adopts measures or other forms of measures might be adopted against the system.

We think, thus, it is necessary to start a broad process with different sectors to find paths to guarantee democracy because corruption and blackmail must not have a role in democracy and in the drafting of laws and much less in their application. Guatemala has a direction, a path, and has made a decision: Work toward democracy. We will not allow attackers of democracy to enter through the backdoor.

Elections allow one to exercise power and to represent the people within a democracy. I won the popular vote and was elected constitutional president of the Republic. Two weeks ago the Guatemalan people reaffirmed their trust in me by voting overwhelming in our favor in the elections.

I wish to tell you that we are aware of our historic responsibility and we face up to this responsibility with courage and nobility. I ask the people of Guatemala to help me continue. The situation we are going to be facing is not an easy one, but change does not come easy. We are determined to face the responsibility we have undertaken by opening the most important dialogue with all the people.

Regarding human rights, we wish to tell you that false rumors have been spread in the sense that we wanted to capture the human rights ombudsman. That is not true. The decree does not refer to the human rights ombudsman. The human rights ombudsman has not been touched. The security forces informed me that they went to his home to provide him with protection because they feared that something might have happened. The ombudsman deserves my respect; we may have our differences, but I cannot say of him the things I can say of other politicians. I want to make this very clear.

In the speech I made this morning I said that I want—and it is the will of my government—the United Nations to establish a mechanism for the verification of my government's behavior in the field of human rights. Why? Because we believe this is a guarantee we can offer to boost the peace process.

Regarding the peace process, there will be absolutely no changes in my government's position. We believe that peace is necessary for our country. We believe the process of negotiating is the civilized manner to reach rapprochement. We offer to continue with the same faith, will, and determination with which we have been handling the peace process and we encourage the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] to set aside their inflexible position demonstrated during the past meeting. We also offer to guarantee that we can go on with this process we have begun.

I also wish to add that strengthening of the democratic institutions is essential. This is why we believe it is necessary to make changes to the Constitution and some laws to ensure respect and harmony coexists among the Guatemalan people. I also wish to announce some measures that will be adopted to clarify many of the aspects that are being discussed.

First, I must tell you that among the foremost sources of corruption in the country are our customs offices, where we have large quantities of contraband. To resolve this problem we are already considering the possibility of placing private inspectors at our customs offices, in addition to government controllers, at our warehouses, and at our record storage areas to ensure total accountability when merchandise is brought into the country.

Second, the government has listened to a number of opinions concerning electricity and it has finally decided to make an extraordinary concession to the effect that those people who pay less than 50 quetzales per month will not have their rates increased. This includes almost 100 percent of the rural sector and over 70 percent of the urban sector. These are the people who use approximately six to 10 light bulbs, television, radio, electric heaters for water, electric stoves, and so forth. I believe this measure will end the problem that has affected us so much and which has been so misunderstood.

I also mentioned this morning that the money we will save from Congress will be sent directly to the country's hospitals, which will undergo the remodeling they have needed for a long time. Meanwhile, gentlemen, I must also point out to you that we have or there have been other sources of corruption within the government, for which we are adopting special measures. The appointment of teachers is one of those areas in which we have already made specific decisions that will enable us to fulfill these arrangements as quickly as possible.

This is just about what I said on 25 May. This is my decision and, of course, I will in due time disclose the complementary decisions that I will continue to make. At this time I would like to give the floor to the public relations secretary because I imagine you have a few questions.

[Alvarez] Before hearing the questions, given that there are so many reporters present—more than 23—I would appreciate it if each one asks only one question. We will begin with [name indistinct] from Univision.

[Univision reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Serrano] It is very difficult to answer that question. What we will do is explain to the other nations the reasons we had to make this decision.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]?

[Serrano] We consider that sovereign actions of a state are sovereign actions particularly when the Constitution is in force. Naturally, there were very serious reasons

that we will explain.... [pauses] in fact we are already explaining to the different governments, who are our friends.

[Alvarez] America Torres from the "Debate" program.

[Torres] [question indistinct]?

[Serrano] [words indistinct] I would have preferred that things had turned out differently. I still do not know the reactions of the Congress, but I am willing to face these reactions. If necessary I am willing to sit down with them, face-to-face, because they know perfectly well what I also know.

[Alvarez] [name indistinct] from NEWSWEEK.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] The threats truly did not begin this week. Since the very day it became clear that we had won the elections, very strong pressures were exerted. Some sectors wanted to see us defeated in the elections. When they saw we had won the elections, they initiated a very strong destabilization process that you all were able to observe on the streets during the past week. Unfortunately these actions resulted in deaths and injuries.

I wish to tell you there were attempts to blackmail me into doing things I was not willing to do and extend sums of money I was not willing to extend. We were, thus, morally justified to do what we did. I do not wish to say anything further, but, if forced to do so due to developments, I will tell everything we know.

[Alvarez] Ana Carolina Alpirez of ACAN-EFE.

[Alpirez] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] The Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights remains intact. None of the special measures we adopted affects that office. You may ascertain this in the decree that has been ready since 24 May.

[Alpirez] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] That is absolutely false. No one arrested the human rights ombudsman. That is absolutely false. In fact, when we learned of this report, we asked the government minister to visit the human rights ombudsman at his residence to tell him he has full government support. I repeat, we might agree or disagree with him but we respect Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio.

[Alvarez] Sandra Davila of AMIGA Magazine.

[Davila] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] Yes, we plan to make cabinet changes and will reveal them in due time.

[Alvarez] (Jacobo Benson) of the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE.

[(Benson)] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] This is not an Army decision. This is a decision I made as chief of state, as constitutional president of the Republic. I advised the Army about my actions and explained that it is not correct, under any circumstances, to blackmail the president of the Republic. I was supported not only by the Army, but by the entire Armed Forces, and on 25 May, by many citizens on the streets who were genuinely happy about my decision.

[Alvarez] (Esteiman Amaya) of REGIONAL Magazine of Colombia.

[Amaya] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] The people are the source of democracy. The people's decision must be respected. Sovereignty is based on the people. The people are the foundation of democracy. The use of illegitimate procedures that are not based on political negotiation and democracy, but on bribery, coercion, and on vote buying to elect officials within the Congress of the Republic, undermine democracy. We must fight them, otherwise, all scourges and evils produced by this bribery and corruption will later become a burden for the democratic system, which cannot work through coercion, corruption, bribery, intimidation, or the purchase of the deputies' conscience.

We can have a formal democracy or a genuine democracy. Do we want a formal democracy that shows the world a hypocritical facade, whose heart is completely corrupted by drug trafficking and mafia or do we want a genuine democracy in which each representative of the people is a genuine representative of their interests? That was the great question we proposed to ourselves. We advocate a genuine democracy and this is why I do not hesitate to say that if the TSE calls elections on 26 May, then we would agree to do it on 26 May.

We would even agree to a plebiscite, to whatever the tribunal wants. Why? Because the people's power lies with the people. The people gave us a mandate to practice a real and clean democracy. I was never told that I was elected to maintain a facade of democracy and to allow drug trafficking and the mafia to destroy the country. Gentlemen, this I will not allow. We have stood up to this and we are determined to fight to the end. Thank you.

[Alvarez] Patricia O'Kelly of TIMES.

[O'Kelly] Mr. President, is there popular support for [words indistinct] government?

[Serrano] I hope so. It is very difficult to answer such a hypothetical question. All that I have heard is good, very good.

[Alvarez] [Words indistinct] CNN.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] They are contained in the decree that establishes the government's temporary measures. The rights

that have been suspended are all included in paragraph A. Also suspended are some articles of the law of amparo, the habeas corpus law, and the electoral and political party laws. The rest of the Constitution continues to be valid. I do not know how many articles this includes, but the document has been made available to you.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] No. We are going to appoint a Supreme Court of Justice. That Supreme Court of Justice will even elect the Constitutional Court so the president will not be the one who selects the Court. We are immediately calling elections, which we have requested or will request of the TSE, to return to constitutional order. The Constitution has not been disrupted, as temporary Article 21 clearly states de facto actions [acciones de fuerza] may partially or totally suspend the Constitution but at no time may invalidate it. That means the Constitution is in force. What we are now doing is finding the paths to return to constitutional order in two, five, or ten days, if possible, or the days that may be necessary, through truly democratic processes that guarantee the functioning of the true democracy Guatemalans expect.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] Pardon me?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] No. The Supreme Court of Justice that I will appoint will obviously be temporary. Whenever the new order is established through decisions made by the people, through different popular consultations, [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] Listen, they really have no reason to suspend that summit. That summit can still be held without a problem in the country. We will offer security in order to hold that summit.

The country is functioning now more normal than ever. You can see that the children are at school, people are at work, and the government is giving explanations. Presently the situation is pretty much under control.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] [words indistinct] that kind of meeting. Naturally no. They can hold their meeting. It is a meeting that was previously announced and there is no problem. They can continue to hold their meeting in a peaceful way. There will be no problem for Ms. Menchu or any of the attendees in that meeting.

[Alvarez] Maria Coronado Noriega, Radio Nuevo Mundo.

[Noriega] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] No reporter as far as I know. Quite the contrary, I respect the media. Thank you.

[Alvarez] Patricia Calderon of NOTIMEX.

[Calderon] Mr. President, do not you think the measures adopted by your government will create a vacuum of power in the country?

[Serrano] I do not see why a power vacuum should occur. The truth is that we have made a decision in defense of the state, period. We are not trying to maintain a dictatorship. Quite the contrary, we are working to return as soon as possible to the reestablishment of constitutional order. The Constitution establishes....[pauses] if we had other intentions, we would have done this differently, but we did not.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] Yes, I will identify them in due time. Thank you.

[Alvarez] Aileen Rivera of PRENSA LIBRE's Sunday supplement.

[Rivera] [Question indistinct]?

[Serrano] We are willing to do this and that is why we have mentioned the changes the Executive Branch will carry out. We will be drastic with each of the agencies in which state corruption has become entrenched.

[Rivera] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] First of all, the customs administration is one of the Executive Branch areas in which corruption has become entrenched. You know the illegal trafficking of merchandise, meaning contraband, is a daily occurrence. We have already conducted an experiment with the airport customs agency. We appointed private inspectors and let private firms manage the duty-free stores. The result is positive and has given us good ideas. Naturally, we could not implement this elsewhere due to the various limitations imposed by the previous customs laws. We can now issue specific instructions that allow us to implement quickly the modifications we need to abolish corruption in the customs sector and prevent contraband. What do you think we have found out? A person who trafficked in contraband was sent to prison five times and every time he was released within 15 days by a Judicial Branch authority. That kind of action will become practically impossible. Moreover, we have reports about widespread corruption concerning the purchase of medicine and the purchase of other basic products needed for the state's operations.

Now we are giving specific instructions so that purchases will be made clear, not through the famous open contracts that allow very large [words indistinct], but through public bids that are clean and open, to which the purchaser may attend and may see how he stands with regard to the prices in the market.

Another important aspect that we want to solve now is the appointment of teachers, another important source of corruption that we must check. We are going to accelerate the procedure, because—as a result of corruption—many times teachers are not sent to the places where they are truly needed. This means that the Executive Branch is also availing itself of the situation, making efforts, trying to modify certain norms that were an obstacle to accelerating these transactions, which represented corruption in the past.

[Alvarez] Please, [words indistinct] now has the floor.

[Unidentified reporter] But we have not been given an opportunity.

[Alvarez] Yes, you already had the opportunity.

[Reporter] I already had the opportunity? Okay. Thank you.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] Yes, due to the excesses. In other words, up to a certain point there has been the possibility of a dialogue in the country. However, when they tried to blackmail, that is where I said this is it, and I closed the door. I support everything that means dialogue and conversation. But I cannot accept blackmail.

[Alvarez] Thank you, Mr. President. (Alberto Antonuti) now has the floor.

[(Antonuti)] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] Look, with regard to your first question to the effect if there is a blackout at the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise, I am going to seek information on this immediately. Should there be any blackout, we are going to order that it be lifted immediately, so that you can go ahead with your duties.

With regard to your second question, I must admit I had not thought about that. In other words... [pauses] that is a good idea. [laughs] I am going to do a little of what the European leaders do quite frequently. No, that is not the case. The truth is that the tribunal will have to decide how this is done.

At any rate, one thing I am going to tell you is that we Guatemalans need legislation that will protect us. I know that Guatemalans will all agree with this.

[Alvarez] Hector Masaya of "Television News."

[Masaya] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] We have cases of narcotics traffickers who have been imprisoned. For example, the case of the Zacapa Cartel. It cost us over 150,000 quetzales to capture those people. It was an operation that took over one and one-half weeks, two weeks. Three persons were killed and several were injured in the operation. How long did their cases remain in the courts? They were in jail for less than one week, in spite of the fact they had been caught redhanded and so forth.

We honestly cannot work with ground rules such as these. It is very difficult to be making all kinds of efforts to counter the mafia and drug trafficking in the Executive Branch, just to see them systematically squandered through the vulnerability of the judiciary, which has become a laughing stock to all the kingpins. I quote the example of this smuggler—one of the country's major smugglers— who we have arrested five times, and I am not exaggerating. He has gotten released five times, laughing in the government's face. I mean to say. I could continue giving you as many examples as you like. We reached this decision out of desperation because this cannot continue like this.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] I am sorry?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] What commander?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] Oh. They are obeying the commanding general. I repeat what I said on 24 May: This is a personal decision. I, as I also said, am ready to respond historically for what I have done in my country today. I would like to tell you, as I did a friend, I may be criticized now but they will thank me later, when they learn all that was behind the decision. Let me say, my dear friend, that this is not easy. Without a doubt, let me tell you, this has been the hardest decision I have had to make.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] Definitely. There is freedom of the press, of course, but I think there are some guarantees that I would have to check to see if they are restricted in any way.

[Alvarez] Mr. President, if I may, we are going to present the journalists, especially the local media, with a copy of the restrictions to the article governing freedom of the press. Mr. Gonzalo Marroquin, please?

[Marroquin] [words indistinct] Do you think that by limiting [words indistinct] freedom of the press you can build on true democracy?

[Serrano] I believe that in times of emergency, we can restrict freedom of expression. That is perfectly legal. This could be done by way of a state of siege. It is not my will to leave this in effect for very long, but I believe that the information that the media should handle should not be lopsided. The media must keep the Guatemalan people informed, and that would be something the Public Relations Secretariat of the Office of Presidency should handle.

[Marroquin] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] That is for the public relations secretary to decide, according to how events unfold throughout the country.

[Alvarez] Mr. (Blanca Pleasance) of LA JORNADA in Mexico.

[(Blanca Pleasance)] Mr. President, could you clarify the situation facing Congress President Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon; Juan Jose Rodil, the president of the Supreme Court; and Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio? Will they face charges?

[Serrano] Look. The human rights ombudsman, as you will see in the agreement, has not been removed, not at all. I repeat. Mr. Ramiro de Leon Carpio deserves my respect. He is a man who.... [pauses] We may have differences, as I have said many times before, but he deserves all my respect. In the cases of Rodil Peralta and Lobo Dubon, what I believe was done was to remove their excessive security.

[(Blanca Pleasance)] They were not arrested?

[Serrano] No, not at all. No one has been arrested.

[Alvarez] Mr. Juan Carlos Ruiz of SIGLO VEINTIUNO.

[Ruiz] Mr. President. Have you assessed the impact this action could have on international financial agencies, such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank? Is the security of the people from [words indistinct] guaranteed?

[Serrano] The security of the people from [words indistinct] is completely guaranteed. There is no need for them to have to leave the country. Regarding the behavior of the international organizations, we have complied satisfactorily with the goals set by [pauses] with the IMF, and I believe that as long as we maintain our economy within the proposed goals there will be no problem. Guatemala has made the great effort of paying its overdue debt, inherited from the previous government. In my opinion these are somewhat different matters.

[Alvarez] Virginia Hernandez of CRONICA.

[Hernandez] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] Look, I do not [word indistinct] the constitutional order; the Constitution does. The Constitution as established by Temporary Article 21 does not lose its power or its strength. This means we are basing ourselves on this article, obviously returning to a constitutional order in which the three branches of government operate fully and independently.

[Hernandez] [words indistinct] which officials have resigned?

[Serrano] As far as I know, no official has resigned. The cabinet members are at their posts explaining what has happened just as I am doing with you. Thank you.

[Alvarez] Jorge Amado Chacon of NOSOTROS magazine.

[Amado] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] No, this is not revenge or political persecution. I believe the dissolution of Congress presents us with the possibility of reorganizing the country's democratic system.

[Alvarez] Elias Salazar of LA HORA. [two-second pause] We now go to [name indistinct] of the "News Seven" newscast.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] No, we will go to the OAS and we will explain as necessary.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] I was referring to the attorneys general, both the previous one and the current one. They are going to be separated from their posts so that a new attorney general can be sworn in.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] He has been related to various problems.

[Alvarez] Oneyda Majarro of "Roving Reporter."

[Majarro] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] I have asked the comptroller general to investigate all he wants, even if he has to hire private firms to do so. I have been accused of purchasing a jet plane. That is false. I have been accused of having a yacht. That is false. I did buy a car, but that is not corruption. Any Guatemalan can buy a car. I did buy horses. I do have horses.

[Alvarez] Thank you, Mr. President. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] No, sir. Look there are two attorneys general. Maybe it was not clear. You can clearly see it in the decree. The decree was published before I spoke. Allow me to say one thing. We had Acisclo Valladares, who is the suspended attorney general. We now have (Tuna) Valladares, who is acting attorney general. When I spoke about the attorneys general, I was referring to them.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Serrano] It does not matter if the members of the Judicial Branch were appointed or elected to their posts. We could review the way in which the members of the previous Supreme Court were elected.

[Duran] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] No, not in the Education Ministry's specific case; but it is in the customs sector and other sectors.

[Duran] Thank you.

[Alvarez] Juan Alfredo Castellanos of UPI, please.

[Castellanos] Mr. President, Argentine Ambassador Jorge Taiana on 25 May rejected the measures you have adopted. He termed them a self-inflicted coup and compared them with actions by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori. What is your opinion about the ambassador's comments?

[Serrano] Well, we are willing to hear criticism. If the one who gave the statements is an ambassador accredited to our country I will consult with the Foreign Ministry because that is the correct thing to do.

[Castellanos] Thank you.

[Alvarez] Jose Luis Castillejo of NOTIMEX.

[Castillejo] Mr. President, does the decision adopted on 25 May resemble the one adopted in Peru?

[Serrano] It is not similar. Here we embarked on a process by immediately issuing a summons for constitutional reforms.

[Alvarez] Last question, please. Mr. Mario Gordillo.

[Gordillo] Mr. President, [words indistinct]?

[Serrano] I already explained that. It is a decision I have adopted and I assume the responsibility.

[Gordillo] In what (?capacity)?

[Serrano] As commander general of the Army and constitutional president of the Republic.

[Alvarez] Thank you. We ask you to be patient. Thank you, everyone. We will keep you informed about developments. Thank you.

URNG General Command Condemns Action

PA2505202693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1744 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Mexico City, 25 May (EFE)— The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on 25 May condemned in Mexico City the self-inflicted coup imposed by President Jorge Serrano Elias.

In a statement for EFE, Miguel Sandoval, member of the URNG General Command, said Guatemalan rebels condemn that forceful action, which constitutes a "disguised coup d'etat" and endangers the lives of thousands of Guatemalans.

"President Serrano's decision entails a serious risk for the peace process in the region, and considerably reduces any possibility for negotiations," he said.

He added that the URNG protests President Serrano's self-inflicted coup before the international public because it violates the basic rights of Guatemalans.

The URNG and the Guatemalan Government are conducting peace talks in Mexico City. The latest meeting, held in April, was interrupted due to differences between the parties on the subject of human rights and on the implementation of a cease-fire.

Court Appointees To Be Named 26 May

PA2505224493 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2129 GMT 25 May 93

[Interview with Presidency Public Relations Secretary Arturo Alvarado by reporter Oneida Najarro at the Presidency in Guatemala City—recorded]

[Text] [Najarro] Presidency Public Relations Secretary Arturo Alvarado reported a few minutes ago that the names of the persons appointed by President Jorge Serrano Elias to the Supreme Court of Justice will be announced on 26 May.

[Alvarado] The president expects to have the names ready by 26 May. He already has various names but the people must be consulted and they must accept. We understand several of them have accepted, so we will probably have some appointments on 26 May. We will also have other important news.

[Najarro] Some of the names that....

[Alvarado, interrupting] I cannot reveal them. In fact, I do not know them, so I am not able to reveal them.

[Najarro] Have they worked [words indistinct] criminal law?

[Alvarado] Of course.

[Najarro] Do they have lots of experience?

[Alvarado] Absolutely, yes.

[Najarro] Are they members of a political party?

[Alvarado] No, no. We are not looking for political retribution only professional qualifications.

Press Secretary on Restrictions on Media

PA2505223693 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2133 GMT 25 May 93

[Report by Onedia Majarro]

[Text] Government Press Secretary Arturo Alvarado has commented on the suspension of Article 35 of the Constitution on free expression of thought.

[Begin recording] [Alvarado] [words indistinct] I could mention a series of factors [words indistinct] the law. I do not think that [words indistinct] the media have established self-censorship. I want it to be understood that the [words indistinct] plays a very important role [words indistinct] explosive remarks. That is logical. The state is seeking to [words indistinct], right? For that reason, it is very delicate to make these sorts of remarks

[words indistinct] the media. That same conclusion is what [words indistinct] the news must [passage indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Alvarado] [Words indistinct] at this time could be a message [words indistinct] rebellion. Under these sort of circumstances [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What if that does not happen?

[Alvarado] We will have to impose sanctions. I do not know if [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Serrano Speaks to Mexican Media

PA2505231993 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2153 GMT 25 May 93

[Interview with President Jorge Serrano Elias by an unidentified Mexico City XEW Television Network reporter in Guatemala City on 25 May—recorded]

[Text] [Serrano] Look, this all stems from my concept of democracy. Democracy is a system that is based mainly on the will of the people. When the people voice their stand at the polls, they are issuing an order. Everything stems from the will of the people. Unfortunately, a factor that we had never seen here has begun to surface in our country, and that is narcotics trafficking.

The traffickers are seeking to organize the local groups and organizations, but what they are truly seeking is to take advantage of the weakness of democracy and the openings that democracy offers them to [words indistinct], take over power, and suppress the freely elected power.

What I actually had to do was to rescue democracy, and that is why I have said it: I do not want to remain in power one more day than what the Constitution authorizes. We did not abolish the Constitution. We just simply put in order the organizations that for one reason or another had been diverted.

[Reporter] You charge you have been the victim of political blackmail by Congress. How have you handled this political blackmail?

[Serrano] Congress has done this by coercing me, and by manipulating specific sectors to obtain specific benefits and other things that truly distort the legislative functions. Naturally, I know that this happens in practically all the congresses of the world, but we had never seen it to the extent that we saw it lately in Guatemala.

[Reporter] Mr. President: The various international media are beginning to draw a similarity between what happened in your country and what happened practically one year ago in Peru. What similarities and differences do you see?

[Serrano] I have been asked that question many times, and the truth of the matter is that I must answer I know very little of President Fujimori's situation. The only thing I know is what we all know about the effects of his decision. I have never spoken with President Fujimori to know if he had personal situations similar to the ones I had.

[Reporter] President Serrano: How much popular support do you have right now?

[Serrano] Well, I would say that the entire population supports me. We had mayoral elections in Guatemala just two weeks ago, and our party had a landslide victory. I believe that this somewhat provoked the wrath of our enemies. Nonetheless, the interesting aspect with regard to the measures I adopted is that in a certain way the people prefer what is happening in the country. The people have really gone overboard to voice their support and liking for us.

[Reporter] What is the status of the military in Guatemala?

[Serrano] The military forces have respected the measures I adopted. Their situation is normal; in other words, they have not participated in this at all. I clearly said that I am assuming my historical responsibility. If there are successes or failures here, the responsible person is Jorge Serrano and no one else.

[Reporter] Mr. President, all the ambassadors to the OAS have been summoned to talk about the Guatemalan case and analyze the provisions implemented regarding [President Jean-Bertrand] Aristide's case in Haiti and [President Alberto] Fujimori's case in Peru. What does your government expect from this meeting?

[Serrano] There is not the slightest similarity, because we have not abrogated the Constitution. The Constitution is still in effect. The only thing we did was dissolve two organizations that were working anomalously and have been infiltrated by (?terrorists). I also want to state I immediately announced I was not in the least interested in extending my mandate. Second, I announced elections will be held immediately.

[Reporter] Mr. President, Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, commented on the morning of 25 May in Washington that he had talked with you on the telephone. He said he had stated Washington's quote displeasure unquote concerning what you are doing with your people. What is your opinion about this?

[Serrano] Well, I think the last part of your statement is not true because what I am doing with my people is what my people want me to do.

[Reporter] Oh.

[Serrano] Perhaps that is not what Washington wants me to do but, in any case, I have no obligation to Washington. My whole obligation is to my people. That is clearly understood. But I do not want to quarrel with the U.S. Government. Right? We are planning a true return to constitutional order in the shortest time possible. I

will meet with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal at 1000 on 26 May to establish the logistics for this.

[Reporter] President Serrano, at the beginning of this chat you talked about your concept of democracy. Argentine writer Jose Luis Borges once said this is simply an abuse of statistics. If we talk about political philosophy, President Serrano, what would be your opinion of Borges' phrase?

[Serrano] I do not know what statistics Borges was talking about.

[Reporter] He was talking about electoral statistics. He said democracy was an abuse of statistics.

[Serrano] It is possible that—philosophically speaking—Borges may be right. However, he would then have to propose another system to gauge a leader's popularity and options to hold a public post. In other words, I won the election in my country with 70 percent of the votes. This has been one of the most overwhelming elections in Guatemala's political history. Naturally, I had 12 opponents and any one of them had the same opportunity to get a similar number of votes—but they did not. This proves the people's inclination for a specific political platform—in this case the one we outlined.

[Reporter] President Serrano, how will you use your time in the next three days?

[Serrano] Well, in the next three days I will seek the route that will allow us to return to constitutional order as quickly as possible. Second, we will explain to the international community the reasons, basic goals, and scope of the reforms we are currently implementing. I believe this reform will prove useful to Latin American democracy—to prevent corruption from becoming entrenched in our democratic systems.

[Reporter] Mr. President, to conclude, do you want to send a message to our country through XEW?

[Serrano] As usual, I send the Mexican people my admiration, respect, and affection. I want to tell them I love their nation very much and I clearly identify with it. I hope I will have the opportunity to visit that nation on another occasion and under different circumstances.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President, and we hope so, too. You have been very kind. Good afternoon.

[Serrano] Good afternoon.

Menchu: Serrano Measures 'Setback' for Peace Talks

PA2605014993 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2311 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Commenting on the latest developments in Guatemala, after President Jorge Serrano Elias dissolved the Congress, Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu stated: [Begin recording] [Menchu] Many individuals tried to make the president reverse his decision. They asked him to reconsider and get back on the right course. I share the sentiments of a large number of diplomats in our country. The only thing I would ask is that the situation be worked out through dialogue and negotiations and through peaceful means. I think the Guatemalan people are entitled to live in peace and to enjoy their freedoms. I think that, even if this measure was designed to stamp out corruption, there was no need for the president to suspend constitutional rights to achieve it. There is no justification for the president to suspend the peoples' constitutional rights.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Menchu] I think it is premature to comment on peace in Guatemala, chiefly because this situation fosters instability, and again we will have to take up the challenge of peace. I think the measure is incorrect, as in practice this is an exceptional measure. I am not the person to talk about the peace process and negotiations or about the political solution to the internal armed conflict. But I can say, however, that this will have a significant impact on the dialogue, it will mean a significant setback. [end recording]

PSD Announces Decision To Leave Government

PA2605014493 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2322 GMT 25 May 93

[Report by Armando Perez]

[Text] This is an urgent report. Dr. Aracely Conde has referred to the resignation of the members of the Democratic Socialist Party [PSD] from the government team as follows:

[Begin recording] [Conde] All the Democratic Socialists have decided to leave the government because the developments that have taken place do not permit us to stay in the government. As you know, the disruption of constitutional order and institutional order obliges us to leave the posts which, as in my case, I was holding as an honorary position. We are leaving satisfied that we contributed everything we possibly could and with our efficient work to expressing our solidarity with the neediest classes of our society. The moment does not permit us to continue in our government positions.

[Unidentified reporter] What recommendations do you have for President Serrano?

[Conde] We respect his decision. Last week we advised both President Serrano and the vice president of our evaluation of the existing situation. We recommended that there be a total cabinet reshuffle and that other measures that were at a standstill in terms of constitutional order be taken to correct the problems. Some politicians had complained of corruption and cases of drug trafficking. The incidents, however, occurred in this

manner. Now it is impossible for us to continue to support a government that is contrary to our fundamental party principles.

[Reporter] Who are the PSD members who will be leaving the government?

[Conde] We are all resigning. Dr. Mario Solorzano will resign from the labor ministry with Carlos Contreras and Aura Aguilera, the two deputy ministers. Fernando Fuentes is resigning from the planning office. Carlos Contreras and I are leaving the peace commission and our ambassador in Sweden is also leaving. This has been a decision made by all of us. [end recording]

Serrano Makes 'Exclusive' Statement to Lima TV

PA2605035893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 May 93

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano in Guatemala City by unidentified reporter in Lima on 25 May—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Would you describe the situation the same way the media is describing it, meaning a Fujimori-style Guatemalan coup d'etat?

[Serrano] I am not aware of the details and characteristics of what happened before President Fujimori decided to do what he did. All I know is the reality I had to face, the harsh challenges I had to face, and the decision I had to make—meaning not to turn over my country to the mafia. If that is more or less what President Fujimori had to face [words indistinct] two different processes.

[Reporter] What steps does your government intend to take? Do you have plans to call a constituent assembly?

[Serrano] An assembly has already been called.

[Reporter] When will the elections be held?

[Serrano] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal must decide that.

[Reporter] But you are calculating a period of time that will serve as a transition?

[Serrano] I do not think it will be more than (?six months).

[Reporter] What was the U.S. Government and OAS reaction?

[Serrano] The U.S. Government adopted a somewhat strong reaction. [Words indistinct] will cut off economic aid but we had already predicted that would happen. Regarding the OAS, we have simply [words indistinct]. [OAS Secretary General Joao] Baena Soares has called a meeting.

[Reporter] Would you be willing to go to the OAS and explain your case?

[Serrano] I am ready to go to the OAS and explain my case. I am ready to go to the United Nations and explain my case and I am ready to go wherever else it is necessary. Democracy should not be formal; it should be real.

[Reporter] When did you and your team of advisers decide to take this measure?

[Serrano] When we realized all our control organizations had been taken over, the Attorney General's Office had been taken over, Congress had been (?compromised), and the Supreme Court of Justice had been (?compromised).

[Reporter] When did you actually decide this? One month ago? Two weeks ago?

[Serrano] One and one-half weeks ago. Well, perhaps a month ago we began to realize that we were wrong and that we had become too confident [words indistinct] these organizations.

[Reporter] Did you and your group of advisers analyze the Peruvian case to see the possible repercussions such a decision might have?

[Serrano] Unfortunately, we did not study it. We did not study it because we truly thought [words indistinct] our specific situation. I am willing to seek solutions and overcome obstacles [words indistinct] but I will never give in.

Constitutional Court Challenges Serrano

PA2605041993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0330 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 May (ACAN-EFE)—The Constitutional Court of Guatemala on 25 May challenged President Jorge Serrano and annulled the decrees through which he dissolved the Judicial and Legislative Branches and assumed extraordinary powers.

The court, in charge of protecting constitutional legality, was one of the organizations Serrano dissolved. ACAN-EFE got access to an official communique in which it refused to abide by the presidential decree.

Serrano Issues Decree on Temporary Measures

PA2605060493 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0434 GMT 26 May 93

[Government communique issued by President Jorge Serrano Elias and Government Minister Francisco Perdomo Sandoval on 25 May in Guatemala City]

[Text] The government of the Republic, given the events which have compelled us to partially suspend the political Constitution of the republic, reports to the national and international community the temporary government norms that will rule the country's destiny for the duration of the state of emergency decreed on 25 May.

The constitutional president of the Republic of Guatemala

Whereas,

It is essential that the Guatemalan people trust their institutions to create a democratic system in which peace and order prevail.

Whereas,

The country's situation has deteriorated, given the flagrant violations that destabilizing groups have perpetrated against human rights,

And this has unleashed a wave of violence and has led to the perpetration of crimes and attacks, which have gone unpunished, on the citizenry; and this has threatened state security.

Whereas,

The role of the Congress of the Republic has provoked overall displeasure among the citizenry and has contributed to the loss of confidence in the institutions, this organization's discredit and lack of credibility render it unable to solve national problems.

Whereas,

Given the high decree of politicization and the continuous violation of legal norms, the Supreme Court of Justice has become a factor that has decisively provoked the Guatemalan people's mistrust in their institutions, which prevented an adequate struggle against the impunity that has affected Guatemalan society, particularly in matters dealing with drug trafficking activities.

Consequently, based on the authority granted by Article 183 Paragraph E and Article 21 of the temporary and final provisions of the political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala,

Decrees the following temporary government norms:

Article 1. The Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, laws, and other measures that rule the country remain in effect and valid, with the exception of the following measures whose validity is interrupted temporarily for the length of time that the situation of the country so demands:

A. Article 5 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala, which refers to freedom of action, Article 6 on illegal arrest, Article 9 on interrogation of detained persons or prisoners, Article 23, which refers to the inviolability of homes, and Article 27, which refers to the right of asylum, all of them in paragraph 3;

Articles 33, 35. 38, 45, last paragraph, refer to the right to assemble and participate in demonstrations, freedom of expression, the possession and bearing of arms, actions against violators, and the legitimacy to resist. Likewise, Article 116, paragraph 2, which refers to the regulation of government workers' strikes; Articles 157 to 181, Chapter 2, paragraph 4, which refer to the Congress of the Republic; Article 183, paragraphs g, h, i, j, k, and l, which refer to the Presidency of the Republic; Articles 215, 252, 267, 269, paragraphs a to e, which refer to the Supreme Court of Justice; Articles 271, 272, paragraphs a and b, which refer to the Constitutional Court; Article 277, paragraph d, which refers to reforms to the Constitution; and Article 278, 279, 280, which refer to the National Constituent Assembly.

B. From the Amparo, Habeas Corpus, and Constitutionality Law, Articles 114, 115, 133, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 150, paragraphs a, b, c, d, and e, which refer to:

C. The Electoral and Political Parties Law, Articles 194 and 205.

Article 2. Human rights, which guarantee the Guatemalan people's life, physical safety, and patrimonial safety must be fully respected.

Article 3. The Congress of the Republic is dissolved as of this date, and therefore the president of the Republic is taking over all legislative duties, and he must rule through presidential decrees.

Budget funds that correspond to salaries and allotments to the Congress of the Republic are hereby canceled. These funds will be entered into a common fund for the exclusive use of the national hospitals.

Throughout the duration of the current decree, the president of the Republic will carry out any duties the laws assign to the Congress of the Republic. Likewise, it is understood that any other legal provisions that mention the Congress of the Republic refer to the president of the Republic.

Article 4. The Supreme Court of Justice and the Court of Constitutionality are left without effect. The president of the Republic will immediately begion appointing the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, which in turn once it is formed will appoint the magistrates of the Court of Constitutionality.

Article 5. The attorney general of the nation is hereby removed from his post. The president of the Republic will appoint someone to replace him.

Article 6. The current municipal authorities and the validity of the elections held on 9 May 1993 are recognized, according to the announcements made by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The autonomy of the municipalities is recognized. Nonetheless, when it is considered necessary, the government of the Republic will be able to verify the correct administration of their funds.

Article 7. The government of the Republic will respect the international agreements, treaties, and commitments that are in effect. According to the same principle, the government will allow the extradition of Guatemalans and foreigners who have committed common crimes, particularly those related to narcotics trafficking, as

these are considered crimes against mankind. Extradition for political cases will not be granted or processed under any circumstances.

Article 8. Public administration and the courts of justice will act according to the current legislation.

Article 9. Any person who is detained or imprisoned for any crime or fault must be turned over to the respective judicial authority for a period of no more than 72 hours.

Article 10. This decree is to be observed by everyone, it will go into effect immediately, and it will be published in the official journal.

Issued at the National Palace in Guatemala City on 25 May 1993.

Signed: President Jorge Antonio Serrano Elias and Government Minister Francisco Perdomo Sandoval.

Explains Temporary Measures

PA2605061893 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0450 GMT 26 May 93

[Announcer-read statement from the Presidency issued in Guatemala City on 25 May]

[Text] Aware that the state has a duty to guarantee the life, freedom, justice, security, peace, and the overall personal development of the citizens of the Republic, President Jorge Serrano Elias informs them of the following:

Owing to the reiterated abuse of authority by the Legislative and Judicial Branches and their senseless refusal to recognize the rights of Guatemalans and to enforce justice, it became necessary—as allowed by temporary and final Article 21 of the Constitution—to promulgate the presidential decree that orders:

A. The dissolution of the Congress of the Republic, given its manifest irresponsibility in carrying out the legislative duties the Guatemalan people entrusted to it. Henceforth, this duty will fall upon the president to protect the rights of the Guatemalan people.

B. The abolition of the Supreme Court of Justice, since its election process was flawed from the start, a situation that no doubt had repercussions on its decisions when meting out justice and which resulted in a lack of security for the Guatemalan people. The above statement does not mean justice will be denied, but quite the contrary, that the full rights of the Guatemalan people are recognized.

C. The recognition of human rights, which means establishing mechanisms to verify them; the recognition of the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights and the duties of its director guarantees that the state will observe and recognize the human rights of citizens.

D. The recognition of all existing international agreements, treaties, and commitments, especially those relating to human rights; in fact, the United Nations was asked to become involved by providing us with advisory services to develop mechanisms that may strengthen institutions that oversee the respect of [three-second break in reception] and all the laws that govern public administration and courts.

E. The Guatemalan state guarantees and protects human life and the wellbeing and security of individuals.

F. The guarantee and recognition of private property is recognized as an inalienable right of individuals.

G. The Guatemalan state is to maintain relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation with all those states that have an economic, social and cultural development analogous to Guatemala's.

H. The president has asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to call within 60 days, at the latest, elections for a national constituent assembly that will make it possible to review the Constitution in order to overcome the flaws it contains.

I. To transfer the budget of the Congress of the Republic for the current year to the Public Health and Social Welfare Ministry in order to cover the urgent health needs of the Guatemalan people. In view of all of the above, the president asks the people of Guatemala to give their understanding, solidarity, and confidence to this temporary process, whose sole purpose is to establish in Guatemala a true regime of legality, freedom, and peace for all citizens.

Serrano: Constitutional Order Not Disrupted

PY2605134893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1258 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (NA)—Guatemalan President Jorge Elias Serrano, who yesterday dissolved the Guatemalan Congress and Supreme Court of Justice, has justified the "self-inflicted coup." He blamed it on the "great decay and corruption of various organs that control the republic." He asserted that constitutional order has not been disrupted and said that no "curfew or state of siege" has been implemented.

Serrano said: "The situation had reached a point where all it did was encourage destabilization and corruption at all levels of government."

In a statement to Radio "America," the Central American chief of state said the coup was caused by "Mafia groups strongly linked to drug trafficking, so the great majority of Guatemalan people are really happy with what happened; tranquility now prevails."

During an interview last night, Serrano said: "The message we are receiving is not to remain as we are and do some weeding; we must not return with the same old faces, we new need new people in the government."

The chief of state denied that political leaders have been arrested. He said no one had been persecuted and he categorically denied the closing down of the Human Rights Prosecutor's Office.

Serrano stated: "The Supreme Electoral Court is functioning and the government is working normally; in other words, constitutional order has not been disrupted."

He said the self-inflicted coup "was a measure to purge corrupt institutions. Congress and the Supreme Court were corrupt and there were no legal guarantees."

"I do not want to be reelected nor do I want to be a clown in a democratic farce. I believe in representative democracy, and this is why we will call elections immediately, reorganize Congress, and restore the Court. My mandate expires in January 1996 and I am going home on that day."

Finally, Serrano noted the peace that prevails in Guatemala where "there is no curfew, no state of siege, and no patrols on the streets. The constitutional order has not been disrupted and I continue to the be the constitutional president of my country."

Argentina

Brazilian President Arrives for Two-Day Visit

PY2505021793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0157 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 May (TELAM)—Just after 2245, Brazilian President Itamar Franco arrived at the metropolitan airport. Franco thus begins a visit to Argentina that will last for just over two days.

Franco was met at the military sector of the Jorge Newbery Airport by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, and afterward Buenos Aires Mayor Saul Bouer presented Franco with the keys to the city.

Menem, Franco Sign Agreements

PY2605010793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 May 93

[Special report from Buenos Aires by Lucky Martins]

[Excerpt] On the second day of his visit to Argentina President Itamar Franco signed agreements with Argentine President Carlos Menem to offset the trade imbalance between the two countries.

This morning President Franco held the first meeting with his Argentine counterpart at Casa Rosada, where they talked privately for almost half an hour. Presidential spokesman Francisco Baker reported that during the meeting President Menem accepted an invitation from President Franco to visit Brazil on 7 September, to participate in Brazil's Independence Day celebrations.

[Brazilian] Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero, who also participated in the meeting, reported that one of the matters discussed was the purchase of Argentine petroleum by Brazil.

[Begin Cicero recording] I was present today at the meeting between President Itamar Franco and Argentine President Carlos Menem. The specific subject discussed was petroleum. In an effort to offset the trade balance between Argentina and Brazil, Franco said Brazil would substantially increase purchases of petroleum from the Government Oil Deposits, and would also seek contacts with private companies operating in Argentina. This year we can reach some $250 million in imports of petroleum and gasoline from Argentina. We will also export to Argentina a total of $82 million worth of the Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] fuel oil surplus. [end recording]

During the visit to Casa Rosada, President Franco received greetings from the diplomatic corps, and then attended a solemn mass at the Buenos Aires Cathedral to commemorate the 25 May anniversary of the Argentine revolution.

This afternoon President Franco received a telephone call from Ambassador Jose Aparecido de Oliveira, future Brazilian Foreign Minister, who is at the Brazilian Embassy in Lisbon. Former President Jose Sarney and Ambassadors Paulo de Tarso Flecha de Lima, from London, and Carlos Alberto Leite Barbosa, from Paris, also talked to the president. They were all at the Brazilian Embassy in Lisbon, having lunch with the future Brazilian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Menem Decorates President Franco

PY2605020993 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2327 GMT 25 May 93

[Speech by President Carlos Menem upon decorating Brazilian President Itamar Franco with the Order of Liberator General San Martin in the White Hall of the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] Mr. President, and friend from the Federative Republic of Brazil, ministers, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen, chiefs of the Armed Forces, diplomatic corps, brothers and sisters of my country and of Latin America: In the last few years we have witnessed the great changes in the international scene precipitated by the fall of the Berlin wall, which marks the end of the cold war. The changes that have taken place so far have almost completely changed the policies that regulated international relations during this century.

This process has led to a reevaluation of the possibilities of conflict. On the overall world scene peace has replaced war, while in various regions war has reemerged to accompany the strengthening of national rights. In this international evolution democracy is beginning to be consolidated in regions which were a decade ago under the power of authoritarian regimes. Latin America, in particular, appears now as a region where this process of democratization is more active. The strengthening of the democratic regimes in Latin America has facilitated the emergence of a strong internationalist process, which is part of an international trend toward the creation of economic megablocs.

Our countries have not been unaware of this international evolution. Political stability, the consolidation of our democracies, and the recent communion of interests have allowed us to do much, that is, not only to accompany this process, but to be an active part of it. The integration process appears now as an irreversible fact. The integration between Argentina and Brazil has the full support of our societies. In many cases, in order to make progress in this process we simply had to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles, which had been imposed for years through a confrontation that made no contribution to our growth.

Integration has produced clear commercial results, which can be easily perceived if we realize that from the Iguazu Act to the present date our trade has grown five times. It should be noted, however, that integration has produced benefits that cannot always be quantified or easily perceived. In this order we can list the following achievements:

A. Political cooperation: Integration has allowed the development of consultations between the officials of the two governments, leading to a unification of our positions which can already be perceived in several international meetings. We are including the necessary administrative agreements for the creation of joint consular representations

B. Nuclear cooperation and disarmament, adherence to the Tlatelolco Treaty, the signing of the Quadripartite Agreement, and the signing of the agreement for prohibiting chemical weapons contributed to the consolidation of our efforts in support of technological development for peaceful means. In the future we must consolidate the energy complementation in our countries and the development of physical integration by giving special attention to the Sao Paulo-Buenos Aires highway, the waterway, and to facilitating passage across our borders. This integration process between Argentina and Brazil has been the main engine driving the creation of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Therefore, on the occasion of this visit by the Brazilian president I am very pleased to welcome him to Argentina, pointing out our joint actions in accordance with the fraternal spirits of our countries, as shown by the love of our people. I would also like to congratulate my distinguished colleague Itamar Franco for receiving the Order of Liberator General San Martin, through which our country honors his merits and his direction.

I would like to congratulate him again, hoping that during his visit he will receive the best from us and from our country. But as president of Argentina, and on behalf of all our people, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your presence in our country on 25 May, when we are celebrating the 183d anniversary of our independence, our first cry of freedom, our first government. I am emphasizing this point because this is the first time in 183 years that a president of another country has come to our fatherland, into our territory, to celebrate together in fraternity, with the affection and love which is essential for our people, this independence anniversary.

We were just talking to you, Mr. President, about the fact that never before have relations between Brazil and Argentina been so good as they are now. I believe the situation has not developed to this point in years, and I hope it will remain like this for years to come. I can say the same thing with relation to the other countries of this region, especially Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Chile. I believe this proves once more that these goals can be achieved within the context of democracy and the full freedom of people.

This is why, Mr. President and accompanying delegation, we would like to again give you our cordial welcome and express our gratitude for your presence. On behalf of the Argentine people and government, I ask the Lord to bless your country and government. Thank you very much. [applause]

Franco Lauds Cordial Relations

PY2605031093 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2336 GMT 25 May 93

[Speech by Brazilian President Itamar Franco after having been decorated by President Menem with the Order of Liberator General San Martin in the White Hall of the Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] My friend the president, foreign ministers, ministers, ambassadors, Your Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio, diplomatic corps, ladies and gentlemen:

Mr. President Carlos Saul Menem, the friendly welcoming words by Your Excellency and the hospitality with which we have been welcomed in Buenos Aires reflect the cordiality and affection that have naturally emerged between Brazilians and Argentines, and the fraternal relations between our two governments.

Mr. President, I feel deeply grateful to you for Your Excellency's distinguished invitation, which has brought me back to Argentina a few months after attending the sixth summit meeting of the Group of Rio in this beautiful capital.

During the pleasant moments we shared at the summit of the group for political coordination of the Latin American democracies, and during our meeting in Montevideo at the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] summit, I could detect in Your Excellency the figure of an exemplary statesman, who has been leading his country with wisdom and determination, and who has justly won the admiration of the international community.

I feel particularly motivated by the opportunity that I was given to visit Buenos Aires on the date of Argentina's most significant civic celebration, and to attend, with Your Excellency, the ceremonies marking 25 May.

This historical circumstance symbolizes a union that is becoming stronger every day, to the benefit of our societies and our continent.

At the celebration at government house this morning, and while walking toward the cathedral so that both of us might thank God for the Argentine conquests of the past and for your achievements, Mr. President, we were also expressing our faith in the greatness of our common future.

Our peoples will always recall the image of reciprocal confidence and appreciation reflected on this date, when the Argentine nation welcomed the Brazilian president as one of its children, as a fellow citizen for its main celebration.

Your Excellency may rest assured that we will reciprocate—with the same civility—this noble gesture, which has deeply moved us and which has given this official visit the solemn meaning of unalterable fraternity.

Mr. President, Your Excellency has just decorated me with the Great Collar of the Order of Liberator General

San Martin. This distinguished homage, for which I thank you on my own behalf and on behalf of the Brazilian people, symbolizes the ties joining our two nations.

The name of the hero of independence, who is recalled with respect and admiration in Brazil, was chosen for naming the 19th Armored Cavalry Regiment headquartered in Santa Rosa, Rio Grande do Sul, which will be named San Martin Regiment in recognition of the talent and courage of this great Argentine military man and statesman.

I will also have the pleasure of welcoming you in a few weeks to Salvador, Bahia, the first capital of Brazil. There, in the company of the expanded Ibero-American family, we will try to take a step forward in the task of implementing a comprehensive integrative structure on our continent.

Mr. President of the Argentine nation, Brazil is experiencing a process of democratic consolidation in which citizens are taking, with increasingly strong conviction, their responsibilities in the collective effort to build a more just society.

My government is leading Brazil toward (?development) with social justice, through a policy of stabilization, based on fiscal rigor and on a gradual effort to control inflation which is open and free of arbitrariness.

My government has maintained and intensified the denationalization program, allowing for the participation of foreign capital, a decision that will undoubtedly have positive effects on our cooperation with Argentine entrepreneurs.

We are fighting poverty and starvation. As partners working toward (?their) objectives, Brazil and Argentina have rediscovered their identities, which reflects the irreversible process of integration, the natural and secure path for achieving the well-being of our peoples.

Located in one of the most peaceful regions of the world, Argentines and Brazilians have been able to live a clean history that has handed down to us neither stain nor resentment.

The foundations of our work have already been built. The agreements that we will sign during my visit, in (?sensitive and modern) areas, will help us move forward and will improve our cooperation.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, the joint efforts that Brazil and Argentina have made to promote closer ties have already yielded remarkable results. Few other cases would be able to reflect the fast and secure growth that has marked our bilateral relations, which are being consolidated at increasingly higher stages of agreement and understanding.

New opportunities for action have appeared in the international arena. Today we know that the harmony and predictability of our relations favor the international positions of our two countries.

This situation is soundly based on the economic and commercial fields, which today show unprecedented dynamics in Latin America. In 1992 our bilateral exchange surpassed $4 billion.

The level of harmonization at which we stand takes its roots in the Treaty of Asuncion, which was signed by our two countries and by Paraguay and Uruguay.

Some of our interests call for careful harmonization. Yet I am sure that the difficuties caused by circumstances or appearing in specific areas will always be overcome through dialogue and political will.

Mr President, at a time when the regional schemes of political coordination and economic integration are playing an increasingly important role for designing the course of international relations, and for deciding the destiny of investments and the production of enterprises, the South American region is emerging with new significance and with a potential that we must develop.

During the last Rio Group meeting in this city of Buenos Aires, in December 1992, I said that our region is not only a large economic area but also, and above all, a democratic area in which people find their identities within their own cultural traditions, which have universal significance.

Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. President, on greeting Argentina on its great civic day, I speak on behalf of a brother, neighboring, and fellow country to say to the whole Argentine nation that we will continue with the great integration project, which takes into account all of our interests, a project that above all reflects a future of prosperity and peace. Thank you very much.

Brazil

Economy Minister To Announce Measures By 14 Jun

PY2505145093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Economy Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso yesterday authorized an extension of the deadline for submission of the 1992 income tax declaration. The deadline was 31 May, but it was extended until 14 June.

Yesterday, the minister also announced the implementation—within 10 days—of economic measures to balance the public accounts like strictly controlling government spending and curbing inflation, without neglecting the encouragement of economic growth. Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said the program will not be changed, assigning priority to programs that will benefit the people.

[Begin Cardoso recording] The Brazilian people's situation does not allow the economic policymakers to neglect these people's huge and pressing needs.

I am talking about the efforts concerning agriculture, housing, highway reconstruction, and the so-called food security program. [end recording]

Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso added that it will be necessary to make budget cuts in order to improve these projects.

The economy minister joined the president of the Republic, Itamar Franco, on his trip to Argentina and Uruguay. Cardoso is scheduled to return to Brasilia on 26 May.

Urges Reduced Costs, Speculation

PY2505205493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 May 93 p 41

[Text] Brasilia—[Economy] Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso yesterday asked entrepreneurs to stop speculating with future inflation, and start speculating on how to reduce costs. Cost reductions must be transferred to prices, so as to help curb inflation.

The economy minister said: "People can no longer bear the high inflation."

Cardoso said that Brazilian society could expect some serious work ahead in order to curb inflation, but noted that this would not happen all at once.

"It will be serious and continuous work," the economy minister said.

Cardoso admitted that a major part of the inflation had been caused by "government disorder, prompted by various prior situations," but asked for joint efforts by the whole of society. Concerning Congress, the minister asked it to approve measures that would allow "public action to be more efficient in fighting abuses."

During the morning the minister received a telephone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, congratulating him and informing him that the United States was recognizing the new Angolan Government headed by the MPLA [Popular Liberation Movement of Angola]. The recognition of the Angolan Government had been requested by Fernando Henrique Cardoso during a meeting held with Christopher last week.

The minister said he will act firmly at the Economy Ministry to guarantee the best allocation of public funds.

The minister said: "There are few funds and many needs. We must prevent the mismanagement of funds."

The economy minister noted that he does not initially intend to make any changes in the recovery program implemented by former Minister Eliseu Resende. The minister noted that at the moment he is concerned with implementing the measures, and guaranteed that if any changes are to be made he would report on them beforehand.

The minister emphasized: "Brazil cannot live every day with a speculative headline."

Cardoso said that the salary adjustment for public servants, the percentage for which will probably be determined with President Itamar Franco today, will require budget cuts. The minister failed to announce, however, the areas in which the budget will be cut, or the percentage of funds to be cut.

Cardoso stressed: "I am not familiar with the adjustment, but I may agree with anything as long as there are funds. In order to give, we will have to subtract."

Cardoso said the government will continue seeking methods to reduce interest rates, but noted that this will happen gradually, respecting market conditions.

In conclusion, the economy minister said: "Interest rates cannot be reduced by decree. If I could do this, the interest rates would be zero."

Rules Out Dollarization of Economy

PY2605034593 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 May 93

[Special report by Buenos Aires correspondent Joao Menoni]

[Text] Economy Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said today in Buenos Aires that Brazil will not dollarize the economy. Cardoso met with Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

Cardoso denied today in Buenos Aires that he has stipulated a monthly inflation rate of 16 percent until the end of the year, as published by Brazilian newspapers. According to the finance minister, speculations must end, and we must stop listening to people who are not well informed. He added that Brazil will not adopt a plan similar to that of Argentina: the dollarization of the economy. He said the measures to be adopted are well known: a fiscal policy which increases revenues, and control of public expenditures.

[Begin Cardoso recording] I also want to express my concern, which is also the concern of President Itamar Franco, that this policy not be implemented to the detriment of a resumption in economic growth, and my concern that inflation not run away. This is important. Minister Cavallo and I talked about it, and he agrees with me that Brazil needs some time for economic recovery. This economic recovery is important to strengthening relations between the two countries, and to our trade. This will be achieved. This trade will also be carried out with the hope that demands by the poorest areas will be met, or namely that the hunger problem will be solved. We intend to implement a realistic plan, and with absolute seriousness. [end recording]

The most important subject at the meeting between the two ministers was Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. According to Cavallo, an effective integration must necessarily follow the internal economic stability of Brazil and Argentina, and an equilibrium in the trade balance between the two countries.

According to the Argentine economy minister President Itamar Franco's economic policy is correct, because the Brazilian economy has demonstrated that it can recover quickly as internal demand is continuously increasing.

New Economy Ministry Executive Secretary Appointed

PY2505151093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Engineer Clovis Barros de Carvalho, who is an entrepreneur working with Grupo Vilares and was assistant economy secretary in Sao Paulo during the Franco Montoro government, is the new Economy Ministry executive secretary.

Following Economy Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's and President Itamar Franco's trip to Argentina, Barros de Carvalho today became acting economy minister.

Nuclear Waste Disposal Problems Noted

PY2505125593

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese on 23 May publishes on page 3 a series of unattributed articles on the disposal of nuclear waste in the country.

A 500-word article says "there seems to be a pact of negligence between the executive and legislative branches regarding the final destination of Brazilian nuclear waste." The article notes that "7,800 metric tons of low- and medium-level radioactive waste are stored in temporary conditions" throughout the country. The article further notes that "the draft bill regulating the final destination and safety of this waste has been sleeping in Congress for the past six years."

The article says the temporary warehouses in the states of Rio De Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Goias, and Minas Gerais do not have proper security. The article further notes that Learcio Vinhas, National Nuclear Energy Commission, CNEN, executive director, said that "the nuclear waste stored in temporary warehouses does not pose an immediate risk, but the fact that there is a risk cannot be denied."

A 200-word article says the first mistake involves the warehouse used to store the waste because, "according to CNEN documents, it is obsolete." The article notes that "at least 500 of the total of 4,400 drums" stored in Rio de Janeiro "apparently present corrosion problems."

A 300-word article says the main producer of radioactive waste in Brazil is the Angra-1 nuclear power plant in Rio de Janeiro, adding that "it already has produced 1,350 metric tons of radioactive waste, or 4,400 drums that are stored in a temporary warehouse built 12 years ago next to the power plant." The article adds that the warehouse "is already nearly full," and Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc. "has just finished another warehouse with equal capacity at a cost of $1.5 million."

A 250-word article says that in Sao Paulo "nearly 150 metric tons of low- and medium-level radioactive waste are stored in 788 drums and 50 metallic boxes at the Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research, IPEN, on the University of Sao Paulo campus." The article says the facility is located 2 km from residential and commercial areas, and "IPEN technicians admit the facility was built at the beginning of the 1980's as a temporary storage area." The article adds, however, that the waste with high levels of radioactivity produced by the nuclear reactor in research and the production of radioisotopes is "stored inside the reactor installation itself."

First Dump To Cost $12 Million

PY2505130193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 May 93 p 3

[Text] Brazil's first permanent nuclear waste dump will be built in Goiania. It was budgeted at $12 million, but it still depends on the release of funds by the federal government. According to Laercio Vinhas, director of the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN) Nuclear Radio-Protection and Security Department, the dump is expected to be finished by the beginning of 1995.

The permanent dump will be built 500 meters from the current dump, which is temporary and stores the residues of a cesium-137 accident. It will encompass an area of 1,200 square meters in Abadia de Goias, Goiania district, which has some 2,000 inhabitants, 13 km from the capital.

In November, the Sao Paulo company Jaakko Poyry Engineering will present the Environmental Impact Report (Rima) [Relatorio de Impacto Ambiental], a precondition demanded by IBAMA [Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources] for the concession of the construction license. After that, the project will be discussed with the population and civilian organizations, which may even try to hinder the project.

The Goiania dump, however, will only solve the problem of storing the waste resulting from the cesium-137 accident, which totals some 3,500 cubic meters, between 4,000 and 6,000 metric tons. Once the Goiania residues are stored, the dump will be sealed forever. The remaining radioactive waste—1,645 metric tons today—will continue being stored each year in the provisional CNEN dumps in Angra dos Reis, Sao Paulo, and Pocos de Caldas.

It may take up to 300 years for the Goiania waste dump to reach tolerable radiation levels, Paulo Fernando Lavalle Heilbron explains. He is the supervisor of the

Technical Division for the CNEN Nuclear Waste Department. The metric tons of Goiania radioactive wastes contain only 20 grams of cesium, according to the CNEN estimate. It might seem small, but Heilbron said a milligram of the substance is enough to kill a person.

"Just imagine a cholera virus. It is impossible to know how much it weighs. But 20 grams of those viruses (radioactive) can kill the world's entire population," Heilbron compared.

The theory of building dumps in more remote areas has been ruled out by the CNEN due to the cost and risks of transporting the residues. In total, the Goiania waste is stored in 1,347 metal boxes, 4,223 200-liter barrels, 10 ship containers, eight concrete boxes, and a box with what was left from the cesium source.

"Just to transport the metal boxes would require 336 trucks. In addition to the risks of accidents on the highway, everyone who came across these trucks would be exposed to radiation," Heilbron said.

Chile

Government Voices 'Deep Concern' Over Guatemalan Situation

PY2505180893 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The Chilean Government has voiced its deep concern over the developments in Guatemala, and it hopes a solution will be found soon to safeguard democracy in that country.

This was asserted by new Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Eduardo Diaz, who disclosed a written declaration on the self-inflicted coup in Guatemala.

Diaz said this incident and other similar ones, undoubtedly, do not benefit democracy.

Diaz reported that Chilean citizens in that country are all right, according to the report sent to the Foreign Ministry two hours ago by Chilean Ambassador Cristian Bisquertt.

Diaz said there are no reports of incidents but some people have been arrested.

Aylwin Leaves for Scandinavian Countries, Russia

PY2205133393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin today leaves Chile for Europe, where he will make a state visit to Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Russia for the purpose of furthering trade relations and economic cooperation with those countries. Aylwin's entourage includes five ministers, 35 businessmen, congressmen, and journalists.

Aylwin will arrive on 23 May in Sweden, where he will discuss with local authorities ways of implementing programs to help Chilean expatriates in Sweden—some 30,000—return home.

This is the first time a Latin American chief of state has visited Russia since the crumbling of the Soviet Union. Aylwin will sign trade and economic agreements with Scandinavian countries and will promote participation in a summit conference for social development to be held in Copenhagen in 1995.

Aylwin and his retinue will return to Chile on 5 July [month as heard].

Stockholm Demonstrators Harass Aylwin

PY2505034893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] We have a report by special envoy Manola Robles from Stockholm, where she is covering President Aylwin's tour of the Scandinavian countries and Russia.

[Robles] Ever since President Aylwin arrived in this country there have been rumors that ultra radical groups would demonstrate. And this has actually happened.

The demonstration occurred on the impressive stage of [words indistinct], where Nobel prizes are awarded, and which has been visited by Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda.

Aylwin met with some 1,800 of the 32,000 resident Chileans. It was a pleasant meeting during which Tito Beltran, a young Chilean, sang opera songs, and a choir of Swedish youths sang like angels.

When the president was about to begin his speech, an isolated demonstrator began to shout insisting that the president was a promoter of coups.

[Begin recording] [shouts] [Aylwin] If you consider yourself a democrat, listen to me and I will answer all that nonsense. [shouts] [end recording]

[Robles] Despite Aylwin's proposal, the unknown demonstrator continued to shout, once again interrupting the president.

[Begin recording] [shouts] [Aylwin] Please listen to me... If you do not want to listen to me, get out of here. [shouts] Listen. [shouts] There are people who stick to the past, for whom time has not passed. [shouts] Do not hit him. [end recording]

President Aylwin strongly urged Swedish security personnel—who carefully checked everyone, including journalists—to avoid beating the demonstrator.

Aylwin gave a long account of what had been done for political prisoners, for the exiles who returned home, for the poor, for the indigenous people, and for the environment. It was a learning experience.

Upon leaving the building, however, a group of some 100 people waving banners with expressions in Swedish threw eggs and oranges at the Chilean president, who was protected with umbrellas.

Out of their minds, the ultra radical demonstrators then harassed the president's entourage. Everyone was, however, able to leave without problems. The final result was that some four people were arrested.

It was a stain on the president's visit, but was caused by people who do not represent the 32,000 resident Chileans. It was a minority group unknown even to Chileans themselves.

Aylwin 'Saddened' by Demonstration

PY2505205193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 93

[Report by Stockholm correspondent Maria Angelica Rodriguez]

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin himself has said that he was saddened by the demonstration against him in Stockholm, during which a group of Chileans residing in this city threw eggs and tomatoes at him.

The incident prompted a declaration from Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, who denounced the incident. Aylwin referred to this declaration.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I believe that the gesture of support from the prime minister [words indistinct] the truth is that the attitude of some demonstrators saddened me, but I was also very happy with the great support and understanding granted me by the some 1,500 Chileans who had gathered in the auditorium. [end recording]

Aylwin said that there were, unfortunately, people who stick to the past. I can find no other explanation for the behavior of the groups who staged a demonstration, refusing to listen to my explanations, which were welcomed by those in the auditorium.

[Begin Aylwin recording] Nobody likes to be booed, or to become the target of eggs. But I truly believe the demonstration was staged by a group of individuals who are hardly representative, and who are very angry. To have to resort to that type of measure shows a lack of reasoning, as you can only reason through dialogue, not with insults and by throwing projectiles. [end recording]

President Aylwin was again today the target of another demonstration in front of the Swedish Parliament. This time, however, it was less violent, as the police cordoned off the group, which was carrying posters protesting political prisoners.

Swedish Daily Interviews Aylwin

PM2505151493 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 23 May 93 p 5

[Report on interview with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin by Hakan Forsberg in Santiago on 21 May]

[Text] Santiago—The music of the march echoed between the high gray house walls which stand on either side of the La Moneda presidential palace, which itself is a dull gray color. A police orchestra marched rhythmically along the street to the main entrance of the palace and the ceremonial changing of the guard at 1000 hours. An hour earlier Chilean President and Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin had said his Friday prayers in the palace chapel.

Almost 20 years ago the military shot and killed his popularly elected predecessor, the socialist Salvador Allende, here at the palace. Then, on the day of the coup, 11 September 1973, La Moneda was in flames after repeated bombing from the air. That was the start of 17 years of brutal military dictatorship under army General Augusto Pinochet.

Pinochet was in office as self-appointed president up to March 1990 when he reluctantly handed over to Aylwin after a referendum which he lost ignominiously. But the old military dictator is stubbornly hanging on to his post as head of the army until 1997—with the support of his own constitution. And Aylwin cannot do anything about it.

[Forsberg] How does it feel to have General Pinochet as your subordinate?

Aylwin laughed a little before he replied. He has been asked this question many times before.

"Naturally, it has been a difficult experience. My first conversations with General Pinochet were very tense. I saw him as the former dictator, the man who was responsible for the policy of which I was very critical and which had hit many Chileans, including many of my friends, very hard.

"From the very beginning he was very clear and said that his relations with me were those of an officer subordinate to the president of the Republic. And that I could count on him, a man who was used to giving orders, also being able to obey.

"Even though we have sometimes had differences of opinion on certain questions over these three years our relationship has the whole time remained within the framework of our institutions. And I cannot say that he has breached that discipline which a military chief should demonstrate toward his head of state. That is why our relationship has been professional, but without the difficulties which we could have expected when I took office."

A year before this Pinochet had been hoist by his own petard. Sure of himself he had the Chileans vote in a

referendum in the fall of 1988 on whether they wanted him as president for another eight years. But the majority (55 percent) said "No!" And in the first free elections since the coup lawyer Patricio Aylwin was elected the new president in December 1989.

Seventy-four-year-old Aylwin is a political veteran; he has led the Christian Democratic Party—Chile's largest, with the support of one-third of the voters—for 35 years and is used to compromises and political horse trading.

Aylwin, who was in opposition both to Allende and Pinochet, has now assumed the role of national father in the service of national reconciliation—"a president for all Chileans," as he himself puts it. The eternally smiling "Don Pato"—what the people call him—is therefore trying to build bridges between right and left, between employers and trade unions, between the military and civilians, and between poor and rich. Aylwin, who has a year left as president, heads a coalition government, "la Concertacion," which consists of a number of parties from the center and from left of center. The largest of them are the Christian Democrats and two socialist parties. But despite the fact that Aylwin and the parties which support him have a clear majority in the lower chamber of parliament, they are unable to implement their policies.

The wily former dictator has left behind him a constitution which limits the scope for democratic changes and gives the right wing a disproportionately large amount of power. In the upper chamber, the Senate, there are still eight of Pinochet's hand-picked senators who form an effective obstacle to constitutional changes. They will sit in the Senate for eight years—until 1997.

Long before Pinochet handed over power—as long ago as 1978—he also declared an amnesty covering all crimes—murder, torture, disappearances—committed by the police and the military in the years after the coup (1973-78). But despite this Aylwin set up a public inquiry, "the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation" (the Rettig Commission), as soon as he entered office.

It documented in detail 2,300 deaths (a figure that has grown to over 3,000 today) which the military regime was behind—but did not have the power to bring anyone to account. Crimes committed by the military and the police must be tried by military courts—which simply need to point to the amnesty law....

[Forsberg] Do you think that this constitution which you have inherited is a straitjacket for the government and for you as president?

Aylwin sighed before answering.

"In practice I have never felt myself to be a prisoner of the military machine, or felt restricted by the limitations which the 1980 constitution lays down. But they could be dangerous in a situation of political crisis."

That is why Aylwin has proposed to Congress that the president should be allowed to dismiss or pension off the highest-ranking military chiefs. He also wants to abolish the military's right to exert an influence on who should have seats in the Constitutional Court.

"But I want to stress that these were the rules of the game—rules which I accepted. However, this has not prevented me from pursuing what I have considered to be a just policy. Take human rights, for example. When I set up the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation the military reacted very negatively. But this did not prevent me from following this inquiry through."

[Forsberg] You stressed that General Pinochet was politically responsible for what happened under the dictatorship. Do you consider that he, in the light of the Rettig Commission's inquiry, should be brought to trial?

"The Rettig report established the truth about the victims. But it was expressly meant not to discover who were responsible—something which under our legal system is the business of the courts. In the trials which have been dealt with in the courts there have been no charges requiring punishment for the military chiefs, Pinochet among them.

"He does undoubtedly have a political responsibility because he was president. But this responsibility is the business of the voters on the one hand, who in a way sentenced him when they voted 'no' in the 1988 referendum, and on the other hand of Congress, supported by the constitution."

Aylwin also pointed out that the constitution makes exceptions for "certain concrete incidents under the leadership of the former government"—something which in plain terms means freedom from punishment, an amnesty, for those who staged the coup.

"This is one of the questions which is now the subject of debate and which some of the parties in la Concertacion want to change," he added.

[Forsberg] What in your view is the biggest problem in Chile today?

"Without doubt the huge social differences, the extreme poverty, which plagues large sections of our society. All of the economic and social policies which my government is pursuing concentrate on this problem. We do not believe that you will conquer poverty simply through redistribution; you must grow, increase production. But nor do you conquer poverty simply through growth, if there is not at the same time a policy of equality whose aim it is to solve the problems of the poor.

"Even if the methods are different, it is the same values and principles which have characterized the Scandinavian countries' policies on these issues. For a long time your countries were models for a welfare state in which economic growth did not go to a rich minority while things got worse for the poor majority. We are now trying to achieve the same objective, only through other methods."

[Forsberg] This leads into your trip to Sweden and the Nordic area. What is the aim of your visit and what do you expect from it?

"My trip has two main objectives. First, I want to express the gratitude which Chile's democrats feel for the Scandinavian countries' solidarity with us during the dictatorship. A large number of Chileans were given asylum and a chance to live in the Nordic countries. We received support in our fight for freedom and support for the Chilean commission for human rights. I do not want to end my period in office without saying 'thank you' for this support.

"The second objective is to bring about a political, economic, commercial, and technological rapprochement. In this shrinking world physical distances can be overcome; through Nordic investments in Chile, cooperation between companies, and through the transfer of technology to help us to develop our economy. I think that we can also work together when it comes to international politics, in fields like poverty and the environment, for example."

[Forsberg] Young people have a tendency to see things in black and white. If we look at the young people who grew up under the Pinochet regime and perhaps fought against it and who are now experiencing what democracy means in Chile—compromises with the military, party bickering, political horse trading.... Are they disillusioned perhaps?

"That is a very superficial view. There are big differences. Today the young are able to shout at me, think differently from me without being imprisoned or beaten. I believe that they appreciate this—and the fact that there is freedom. This in itself is a big difference.

Correa Says Government Not To Co-Govern With Frei

PY2505142993 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa has asserted that the government will act with absolute independence until the end of its administration.

He thus dismissed the possibility of co-governing with Eduardo Frei, the sole candidate of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD].

Correa said the CPPD primaries have strengthened the government coalition:

[Begin recording] The primaries represent a positive and unprecedented event that, hopefully, will mark the beginning of a new style used by political coalitions to solve such important problems. The primaries have granted the CPPD candidate legitimacy, and have strengthened the CPPD and its internal balance, as well as the government coalition as a long-term agreement. [end recording]

Correa said that during the meeting of the political ministers, headed by Vice President Enrique Krauss, the government positively assessed these internal elections. He also said that he, like the chief of state, believes the country will experience two parallel processes: One will be a democratic election and the other the continuity of a government task that is above political decisions.

Correa ended by stating that the 27 May cabinet meeting will discuss the legislative branch's agenda because, he said, there are still many draft bills that must be approved under the current administration.

PS, PPD Say Frei Should Lead Entire Coalition

PY2505185193 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The Socialist Party [PS] and the Party for Democracy [PPD] have requested that Eduardo Frei be the leader of the entire Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] and not just the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

PS Secretary General Luis Maira and PPD Secretary General Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn stated that Eduardo Frei is faced with the challenge of becoming the true CPPD leader and not being just the representative of a single party, the PDC.

[Begin Schaulsohn recording] Frei has to be capable, and I have no doubt he will; he must make the effort—and the PDC must be aware of this—to win the loyalty, sympathy, and strong support of our party, like President Patricio Aylwin did when he was named CPPD leader and as soon as he was elected the CPPD's sole leader.

I think it would be a political mistake not to admit that the situation today is different and, therefore, the PDC has to make a great effort. I urge the CPPD's sole candidate and the PDC itself to understand that they must make an effort to establish ties with our political party so we can attain a great electoral victory in December, not only at the presidential level but also at the legislative branch level. Luis Maira said something very interesting, that the primaries have revealed or reasserted the fact that the progressive sector we represent is what makes the CPPD a majority government coalition in Chile. [end recording]

Jorge Schaulsohn said Eduardo Frei is responsible for uniting the coalition behind his future government and must win the loyalty and affection of the PS and the PPD with an active rather than passive attitude.

Schaulsohn said this depends on the PDC's political will, which has not always existed. He also said that Edmundo Perez Yoma's comments had been regrettable.

Finance Minister Rules Out Possible Economic Adjustment

PY2405173493 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 May 93 pp A1, A12

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley noted that, vis-a-vis the decline in copper prices, safeguards have been implemented in order to allow the economy to continue its course without major changes this year. He said he does not see any necessity for making any type of adjustment.

The finance minister, who was scheduled to leave for the United States last night, was asked about the impact of declining copper prices on the economy. He said the situation is not serious, even though a decline in copper prices always affects the Chilean economy because copper companies' profits decline.

Foxley did not consider it necessary to make any adjustment—as long as the price decline is temporary—because our country has international reserves, Copper Compensation Fund [Fondo de Compensacion del Cobre] money, and sufficient public savings.

Nevertheless, Foxley pointed out that the authorities must continue monitoring the future development of trade terms. He noted that if the situation basically remains unchanged and prices remain low in mid-1994, it is possible then that it may become necessary to review the macroeconomic program in order to reinstate the "buffers" (reserves, Copper Fund) currently used in order to maintain the same security margin that exists today.

Foxley noted that the Copper Compensation Fund totals about $800 million and there is a substantial amount of public savings. The minister said: "We will spend part of this money this year, but we have reserves for many years. Thus, there is no reason for major concerns."

Foxley emphasized: "From a macroeconomic viewpoint, things are perfectly arranged, under control. For the time being, we are not anticipating any critical or difficult situation. We will keep alert to an ongoing decline in prices or any change in it, but we do not believe that we will have to take significant adjustment measures this year. The macroeconomic program has enough safeguards in order to ride out this storm, without having to change its course." [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Government States Concern Over Guatemalan Situation

PA2605032093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Diego Paredes said on 25 May the Ecuadoran Government views with concern the political events that have occurred in the Republic of Guatemala, and it will closely follow developments.

The foreign minister reasserted Ecuador's juridical conviction that a democratic system is the most appropriate for the social and economic development of nations.

He added: At the international level, Ecuador supports the enforcement of democratic institutions as a result of its own beliefs and its adherence to the principles established by regional organizations, which constitute the norm for relations between our states.

We sincerely hope the Guatemalan people and government will find the most appropriate, timely, and peaceful way to implement their democratic system, Paredes added.

Government To Counter FUT Strike With State of Emergency

PA2205195093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government will decree a state of emergency nationwide to prevent the suspension of productive activities during the strike planned by the United Workers Front [FUT] on 26 May, warns Public Administration Secretary General Jose Vicente Maldonado.

[Begin recording] [Maldonado] This strike will not resolve the country's problems, let alone the economic crisis. Therefore, I must underline the statements made by the labor and government ministers and again invite the labor leaders to deal seriously and responsibly with the country's problems. The national government will not act or react and it certainly will not hold talks under pressure or in response to measures such as these.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Maldonado] I trust that by 26 May the FUT leadership will have regained their good sense and that they will behave responsibly. They must say exactly what they are doing and if necessary they must hold meetings this weekend with government representatives to discuss and delve into the points and issues they have presented to the national government. [end recording]

The national government says the general strike scheduled for within five days by t[illegible] workers will destabilize democracy. An indefinite strike will prove that an effort is being made to destabilize the country, and not only economically but the democratic system also, said Presidency Minister [as heard] Jose Vicente Maldonado.

At a news conference at the government house, Maldonado warned that if necessary, President Sixto Duran-Ballen will declare a mobilization, which is how Ecuadorans describe the instructions given to the military to maintain order.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Comments on 'Negative Consequences' of Coups

PY2605152793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 26 May 93 p 20

[Text] Speaking yesterday about the self-inflicted coup perpetrated by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano, who disrupted the Guatemalan Congress, virtual President-Elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy said that self-inflicted coups or coups d'etat against democratic processes are short-lived.

Asked by journalists about the issue, Wasmosy said: "We have to be zealous guardians of the current government system because it is the best way to elect government officials."

He said that democracy criticism is constructive because it helps people to do things well, adding that coups d'etat or self-inflicted coups have always had negative consequences. Asked about which policy he will develop with the legislature, Wasmosy reasserted the need to achieve consensus and dialogue with the future congress.

Wasmosy made this statement at a dinner held by the Paraguayan Rural Association in his honor and that of Angel Roberto Seifart, the virtual vice president-elect, at its exhibition center in Mariano Roque Alonso.

Opposition Discusses U.S. Recognition of Wasmosy Victory

PY2505161193 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 May 93 p 8

[Text] Domingo Laino, former presidential hopeful for the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], commented yesterday on the U.S. Government's acknowledgement—through Ambassador Jon Glassman—of Juan Carlos Wasmosy's victory: "I believe it is untimely at this moment. This, of course, is a very personal opinion. I do not know what Ambassador Glassman's criteria is; I am talking about my own criteria and values."

In this regard, Laino said that the U.S. recognition is debatable. He added: "I do not know what Ambassador Glassman's criteria is but, in my opinion, the official vote count still has not finished. The vote tally proceeding records currently are at Congress' disposal. The legislators and the national Congress now must judge the results. After that, naturally, one could voice one's recognition."

When asked whether the U.S. ambassador's recognition gives the government party grounds to feel certain of its victory, despite what Congress' decision regarding the election results may be, Laino said: "Well, I don't really know. Anyhow, I believe that in any country in the world one must await the decision of the institutions in force before officially acknowledging a victory. The decisions of this country's institutions usually are acknowledged, but in this case I really do not know what reasons he had."

Laino said that one should ask Ambassador Glassman more about this subject and ended: "I wouldn't do it personally; I wouldn't do it."

Former National Encounter Alliance presidential hopeful Guillermo Caballero Vargas said the U.S. decision to recognize Juan Carlos Wasmosy as the winner "is aimed at acknowledging an accomplished fact."

Caballero said: "I believe this recognition falls somewhat within the policy of acknowledging an accomplished fact and believe this recognition is tied to Congress's decision, which is what will really confirm the election's definitive results."

"Glassman's recognition is tied to Congress' definite decision and we follow the same policy. We are going to wait for Congress to verify all the results and definitely confirm them in order to opportunely pronounce our position."

When asked whether he thought the U.S. Government's recognition had been somewhat early in view of the fact that the official results have not been disclosed yet, Caballero Vargas commented: "I reiterate that I believe this is a recognition of an accomplished fact because the international community believes Paraguay has made progress in the democratic process now that it has—Ambassador Glassman said so too to some extent—an executive branch, although it is in the hands of the government party, and a legislative branch controlled by the opposition."

"For the international community this is encouraging enough, to recognize the accomplished fact that the government party won. However, it is cautious enough to condition the official recognition to the definite confirmation of the results by Congress."

Editorial Suggests 'Effective' U.S. Support Beyond Rhetoric

PY2505171593 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 25 May 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Recognition and Need for Effective Support"]

[Text] The recognition by such a powerful country like the United States, whose diplomatic representative yesterday made the gesture of going to the home of the general election's winner to present his government's congratulations, cannot go unnoticed.

We cannot remain indifferent because this is a great country in which we have special expectations, mainly in situations like the current one, when democratization processes in which the northern country is very interested are at stake.

We think that, nonetheless, recognition by the United States should be backed by an effective predisposition to cooperate with development because it cannot limit itself to being a demanding observer nor attempt to impose behavioral norms for the internal coexistence of a country like ours without offering, as a counterpart, the means that that metropolis can grant and that developing countries like Paraguay need in order to make progress.

To currently speak of democracy without backing an intelligent economic adjustment process, aimed at economic growth to gradually meet the urgent demands of a poor society, does not make sense. If we really want to live in democracy, we must first consolidate social and economic stability.

In effect, President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy was very clear with the important interlocutor who visited his home yesterday on this subject of essential importance for the consolidation of the democratic process in Paraguay. Our country will need considerable credit support during the next three years, for which U.S. support at the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the World Bank will be necessary.

These funds will be used to implement the minimal infrastructure projects the country needs to finish its road network in such a way that electrification projects for agricultural and industrial development centers will not have the inconvenience of not having the appropriate road networks.

We always have thought well of the U.S.' stress on the need to continue the fight against drug trafficking. Principally, we consider it a top attitude of human responsibility, but it is also necessary that the United States convince itself that the big cities, which have attractive drug markets, are the ones that tempt poor populations into this kind of activity.

Thus, if the problem has two sides, one of them should be exclusively controlled by the powerful countries, while the other one will be better controlled as long as these countries, mainly the United States, dedicate themselves to a much more practical policy of cooperation favoring the economic development of the region and exercising distributive justice as much as possible.

We are pleased to receive the U.S.' congratulations for our president-elect, and we hope this time—just as the U.S. representative yesterday expressed interest in improving relations—we will be able to take a step forward in overcoming mere rhetoric and symbols that have helped so little in consolidating a popular process like the one to which all the Paraguayan people are currently dedicated.

Germany, Nicaragua Acknowledge Wasmosy's Election

PY2505145993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 May 93 p 9

[Text] German Ambassador to Paraguay Heinz Schneppen reported yesterday that German Federal Republic President Richard von Weizsaecker congratulated, through a telegram, engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy "for having been elected president of the Republic of Paraguay."

The diplomat read the following note: "On account of having been elected president of Paraguay, I am pleased to send you, in the name of the German people, my congratulations. We also express our hope that democratic development and the state of law continue consolidating in Paraguay, based on the Constitution, for the benefit of the Paraguayan people."

Regarding the note, Ambassador Schneppen added that the 9 May elections had three winners. He first congratulated the Paraguayan people for their active participation and the civic maturity demonstrated in the electoral process. Second, he congratulated the president-elect engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy, to whom he wished the best performance in his future task as president of all the Paraguayan people. Third, he expressed congratulations to the entire opposition for its contribution to the transformation of the country into a pluralist democracy, governing together with Congress based on the Constitution.

Ambassador Schneppen made these statements in the Foreign Ministry after a ceremony in which visiting Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu Bonilla was decorated.

The German diplomat also reported that he has not yet received the order to sign the reciprocal investment promotion and insurance agreement between Paraguay and Germany.

The government of Nicaragua also acknowledged the triumph of Juan Carlos Wasmosy in the 9 May elections.

Uruguay Supports Decision To Join GATT

PY2505162793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 May 93 p 12

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu stated that Uruguay supports Paraguay's decision to join GATT. He said this step is compatible with the progress in the implementation of the regional integration project known as Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Abreu talked to the press after meeting with President Andres Rodriguez at Government Palace. He and his Paraguayan counterpart, Alexis Frutos Vaesken, signed a protocol on permanent bilateral consultations at the Foreign Ministry.

Abreu said: "Paraguay has started to propose its strategy to join GATT in a legitimate and very professional way. Uruguay is very determined to support this effort because GATT is part of a plan to free international commerce. It is a legal system that guarantees economic freedom." He stated: "It is also true that Paraguay's decision to join GATT is part of the common strategy of the Mercosur member countries. I believe that irrespective of minor specific disagreements regarding timetables, opinions, and even tariff levels, the conditions necessary for GATT and Mercosur to coexist will be created. Paraguay will join GATT because this is a legal system that guarantees free commerce, or at least tries to overcome the problems it creates. Mercosur, as an integration project, is aimed at trying to find a better way to join the international market."

He added: "We have to consider that despite these minor specific aspects, such as the discussion on tariff levels, these integration projects we are outlining do not seek to establish either game preserves nor tariff barriers to expand exports and imports. They are designed to modernize our economies so we can join the rest of the international community through the competitiveness and quality of our products."

Asked if Uruguay agrees with Paraguay's decision to join GATT, Abreu said that "Uruguay has no right to oppose this initiative and is willing to support it. The strategies and timetables should be negotiated jointly but nothing should prevent Paraguay from taking this step."

Foreign Minister, Uruguayan Counterpart Sign Declaration

PY2605033293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 May 93 p 13

[Text] The governments of Paraguay and Uruguay will make efforts to increase and liberalize trade and bilateral investments by trying to fully open their markets. This statement is contained in the joint declaration signed by Foreign Ministers Alexis Frutos Vaesken and Sergio Abreu Bonilla in a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

In this regard the two foreign ministers also signed the document approving the regulations of the draft Cooperation and Economic Complementation Agreement which was signed during the meeting of the Uruguayan-Paraguayan Mixed Commission on 20 February 1992 in Montevideo.

The joint declaration also establishes that in order to implement the agreement as soon as possible, a technical bilateral meeting will be held on 2 and 3 June 1993 at the headquarters of ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] to study the list of products included in the Cooperation and Economic Complementation Agreement.

During a working meeting Frutos Vaesken and Abreu Bonilla also discussed the Paraguay-Parana waterway. In this regard the joint communique points out the importance of the port concessions given by Uruguay to our country in Montevideo and Nueva Palmira, to facilitate the access of Paraguayan products to the sea.

At the regional level, the two foreign ministers reiterated their commitment to completing the necessary procedures for the ratification by the two countries of the River Transportation Agreement of the Paraguay-Parana Waterway currently in force.

The joint declaration also says that Paraguay and Uruguay have concluded their processes of transition toward democracy and the consolidation of their institutions.

In this regard the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry conveys, on behalf of the Uruguayan people, its congratulations over the development of the recent elections in our country, which will allow for the consolidation of democratic life and the opening of new paths of progress and well-being.

Frutos Vaesken and Abreu Bonilla reiterated the Uruguayan and Paraguayan desire to activate a permanent mechanism for political consultations between the two foreign ministries, in accordance with an agreement signed in August 1990. That instrument will be the most effective way for a periodic evaluation of the progress in bilateral relations.

Peru

Fujimori Comments on Events in Guatemala

PA2605031693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori, commenting on the political situation in Guatemala, has said that if it is to fight corruption, he approves of the measure. He rejected the idea that he supports the export of so-called Fujicoups.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, what is your opinion on what has occurred in Guatemala, and about the statements that President Jorge Serrano has followed in your footsteps?

[Fujimori] I have had no direct information, just news agency reports. Basically, I think that if the objective is to get rid of corruption, then I find the action appropriate. The people do not want demagoguery disguised as democracy. I repeat, I do not have any direct information on which to make a firm comment. I would like to say, though, I do not want to be the exporter of the Fuji-coup. [end recording]

Fujimori Discusses Pardons for Officers

PA2505185693 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1211 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] A presidential pardon for military officers who participated in the coup attempt staged November 1992

will be issued shortly. President Alberto Fujimori made the aforementioned announcement, adding that this pardon would not include General Rodolfo Robles Espinoza.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, how will your government resolve in the eyes of the world the problems within the military? Is it true that there are differences between Gen. Hermoza and the interior minister?

[Fujimori] I deny that version, which comes from an unreliable media source. It is absolutely false.

[Reporter] Is there a trial involved in all this?

[Fujimori] I repeat, this is absolutely false. There is a monolithic unity in the Army, particularly at a time when the Army, Armed Forces, and National Police are achieving significant victories in the struggle against terrorism.

All this is being done with the cooperation of not only Gen. Hermoza, but all generals who are facing terrorism. They are also taking part in the developmental tasks, which are also part of the pacification of the country, as Gen. Torres is doing.

[Reporter] Will Gen. Briones remain at the head of the Interior Ministry?

[Fujimori] Of course. A little disagreement is not going to adversely affect the interior minister. He enjoys my full confidence, just as Gen. Hermoza and Gen. Malca.

[Reporter] Mr. President, regarding the Latin American Business Advisory Center [Clae], the resignation of the Presidency secretary was attributed to his connections with the companies of Mr. Manrique. Is this true?

[Fujimori] Apparently, he was connected with Mr. Manrique and since I do not want connections between the government and some enterprises, I asked Mr. [name indistinct] to resign. The handling of public administration and government measures must be totally independent of this kind of connection.

[Reporter] Mr. President, who will fill that position?

[Fujimori] I am looking for that person.

[Reporter] When will the presidential pardon for military officers be announced?

[Second identified reporter] Will Gen. Robles be included in the presidential pardon?

[Fujimori] This will be announced the week of 23 May.

[Reporter] Will Gen. Salinas be included in the presidential pardon?

[Fujimori] No.

[Reporter] How many military officers will be granted a presidential pardon? Who are they?

[Fujimori] Allow me to make a decision freely. I feel that you are pressuring me and you may discourage me. I am going to make my decision by mid-week and I will make an announcement.

[Reporter] Mr. President, will Gen. Robles, who is currently in Argentina, be included in the presidential pardon?

[Fujimori] No, he is not on that list. Thank you. [end recording]

Congressman Joy Way Reportedly Attacked

PA2505131193 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1203 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] At approximately 2230 on 24 May [0330 GMT 25 May], Congressman Victor Joy Way was attacked as he traveled to his home. Two bullets shot by long-caliber weapons hit Joy Way's vehicle as he crossed the Huascara Bridge.

It is known that the chairman of the Democratic Constituent Congress Foreign Relations Committee left Congress a few minutes earlier and was on his way to his home, escorted by another vehicle.

Police are conducting an investigation, but there are no clues regarding the perpetrators of the attack.

Bank Superintendent Orders Clae To Reopen

PA2505135193 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Luis Cortavarria, superintendent of Banks and Insurance, said that Latin American Business Advisory Center [Clae] directors must open their doors to the public. Payments to associates will have a $5,000 ceiling, he said.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Dr. Cortavarria, what is the position of Clae? Will it reopen this week?

[Cortavarria] I take this opportunity to demand that the Clae directors open. On 26 May it will have been 15 days since the unilateral decision to close was made. We strongly urge the Clae directors to open up tomorrow [26 May] and attend to the clients the way we have instructed, by making payments of no more than $5,000.

[Reporter] What will the superintendency do if Clae does not reopen on 26 May?

[Cortavarria] We hope they do open. We are evaluating various legal alternatives. Let us see first how things develop; I do not want to jump the gun.

[Reporter] What does the law say?

[Cortavarria] There are some legal loopholes that I believe need to be corrected. I would prefer not to issue

any opinion in advance. I want to wait to see how things develop in the next few days.

[Reporter] Investors want some sort of assurance; they want to know what is happening.

[Cortavarria] The security of their money is in the hands of Clae directors. It is a well-known fact that we have been demanding the information to evaluate Clae investments.

[Reporter] The $200 million does not serve as a guarantee?

[Cortavarria] No, definitely not yet.

[Reporter] Have any additional documents been presented?

[Cortavarria] Not yet. No additional documents have been presented.

[Reporter] What if Clae is asked to supply the documents?

[Cortavarria] I understand Congressman Reynaldo Roberts [President of the Economy Committee] has already told the press that this possibility will be evaluated. This is outside the scope of the superintendency. [end recording]

Supreme Court Orders Initiating Perez Trial

PA2605045793 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ] has officially ordered initiation of the trial against Carlos Andres Perez for the crimes of embezzlement and misuse of $17.5 million that came out of 250 million bolivares from the secret presidential fund. Luis Guillermo Garcia has the details of this report.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] The CSJ has issued the order to proceed, which marks the beginning of the trial of Carlos Andres Perez, Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, and Alejandro Izaguirre, which will officially begin probably on 26 or 27 May.

After holding a plenary meeting, the CSJ decided to appoint a commission that includes Magistrates Cecilia Sosa Gomez, Anibal Rueda, and Roberto Yepez Boscan to draft the order to proceed with the trial. This judicial mechanism also allows initiating the trials of Alejandro Izaguirre and Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, once the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, respectively, authorize lifting the legislative immunities of these former officials.

[Unidentified official] The CSJ met and acknowledged receipt of the Senate document notifying the authorization of the impeachment of citizen Carlos Andres Perez, president of the Republic. The CSJ accepted the document, and by virtue of that authorization, it will shortly rule on the steps to be followed and will issue an order to proceed with the trial.

[Garcia] While the CSJ decided on the order to proceed, Carlos Parada Quintero, an independent lawyer, and German Febres, on behalf of the New Democratic Generation Party, filed before both the Political-Administrative Division and the plenum two appeals of interpretations of Articles 187 and 188 of the National Constitution, so that they will define once and for all if Octavio Lepage should remain as acting president for 30, 90, or all the remainder of the days left in the presidential term of office.

[First unidentified lawyer] Article 150 of the National Constitution has a gap because Paragraph 8 specifies that the Senate is authorized to order the impeachment of the president, and specifies that once it has been authorized, he will be suspended from his duties. It does not add anything else. It could be amended so that it will establish that this suspension is either due to a temporary fault or an absolute fault, and this would solve the problem.

[Garcia] This became complicated further when lawyers Morris Sierra Alta, on behalf of Jaime Lusinchi and Blanca Ibanez; Alberto Arteaga, on behalf of Carlos Andres Perez; and Rafael Perez Perdomo, who also represents the suspended president and Alejandro Izaguirre, appeared almost simultaneously at the CSJ. Perez Perdomo and Arteaga requested copies of the suits against their clients, and all of them, including Sierra Alta, compared the cases of Marcos Perez Jimenez and of Carlos Andres Perez, inasmuch as the CSJ is using the trial for embezzlement against the former dictator as a point of reference.

[Second unidentified lawyer] These are very different cases. In the first place, the trial against General Perez Jimenez took place after he no longer was president, while this trial is against a president in office. That is the first difference.

[Third unidentified lawyer] I do not associate the two cases. One case has an accusation for embezzlement, and on that opportunity it was rejected by the court in the final ruling. Now, there are charges of embezzlement and misuse of funds, which is rather absurd, by the way, because those two crimes exclude each other. Embezzlement is the appropriation of public administration funds, while misuse means using public funds for something else for which they were assigned.

[Garcia] At this time, the trial process begins and this is the time to show in the courts—with witnesses, evidence, and documents—if in fact a crime has been committed. If it is proven that there has not been any crime, then it is up to the CSJ to declare the case concluded.

Something interesting happened at the CSJ when Morris and (Ralph Tex), lawyers for Marcos Perez Jimenez and current lawyer for Blanca Ibanez and Jaime Lusinchi, met a the CSJ. Rafael Perez Perdomo, former lawyer for Marcos Perez Jimenez and current lawyer for Alejandro Izaguirre and Carlos Andres Perez, was next to him, as was Alberto Artega, current lawyer for Carlos Andres Perez and former dean of the School of Law of the Central University of Venezuela [end recording]

Government Issues Communique on Guatemala

PA2605020793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 25 May 93

[Communique issued by the Venezuelan Government in Caracas on 25 May; read by Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich—live or recorded]

[Text] The Government of Venezuela has seen with deep concern the measures adopted by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias—partially suspending the constitution; dissolving Congress, the Supreme Court of Justice, and the Constitutional Court; and removing officials of the Attorney General's Office.

The adoption of these measures represents an abrupt interruption of a legal state, jeopardizes the exercise of legally created branches, and threatens the consolidation of democracy on the continent. The situation represents one of the events foreseen in UN General Assembly Resolution No. 1080 and results in the immediate implementation of mechanisms outlined in the resolution to protect the region's democracy. Consequently, the Government of Venezuela has proceeded to issue the pertinent instructions to its permanent representative to the OAS.

Given this critical situation, the Government of Venezuela cannot but emphasize the negative effects that the rupture of institutional normalcy may have on the dialogue and peace process.

The Government of Venezuela has recalled its ambassador to Guatemala for consultations.

Caracas, 25 May 1993.